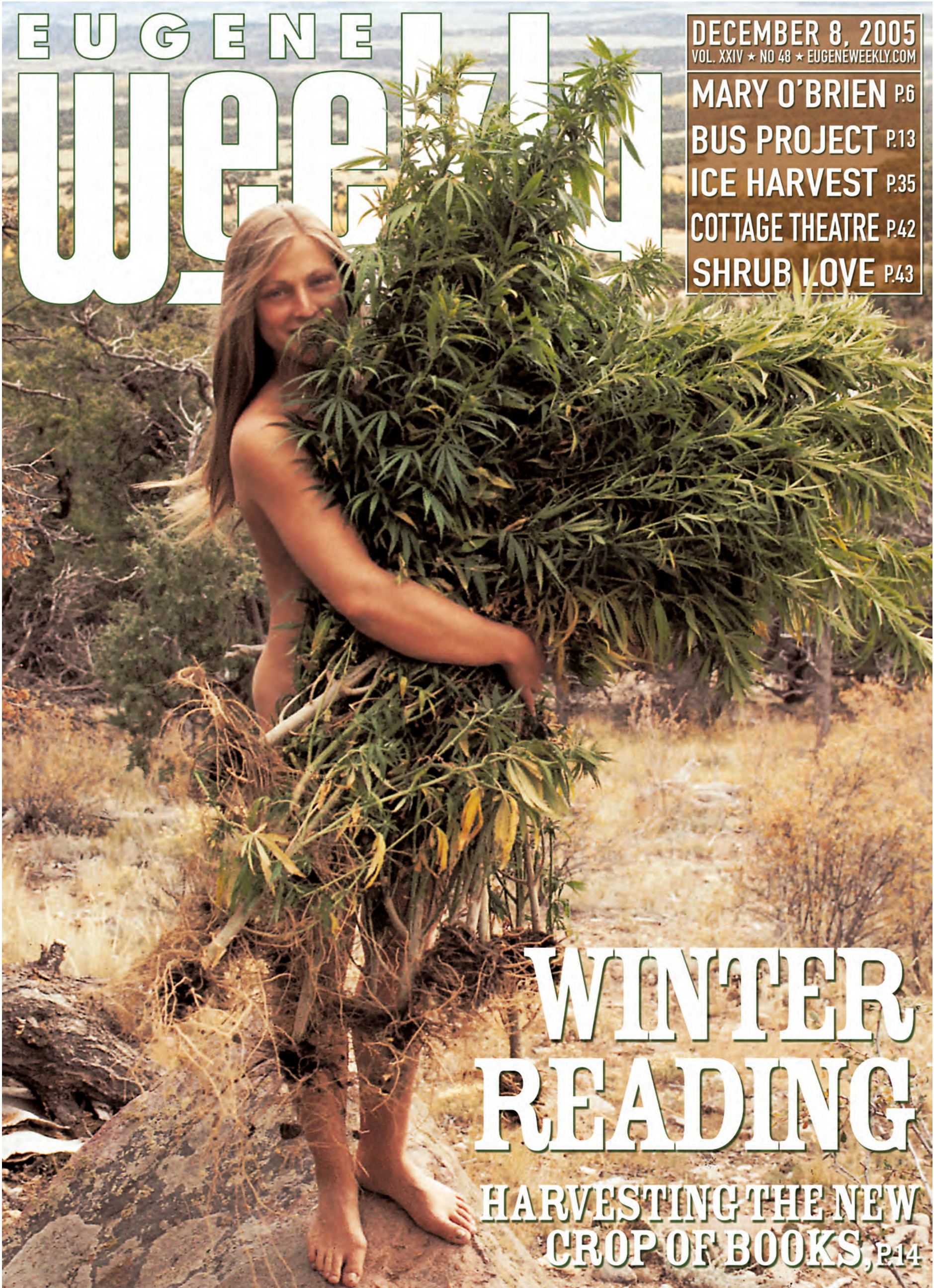


EUGENE Weekly



DECEMBER 8, 2005
VOL. XXIV ★ NO 48 ★ EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

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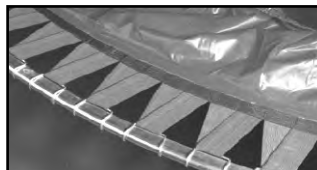
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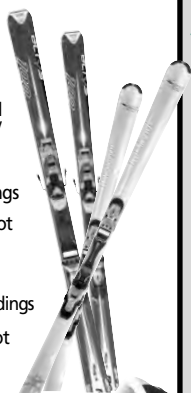


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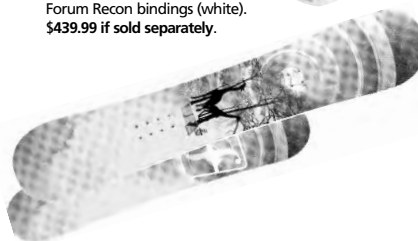


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Mobile Mayhem

Eugene should protect its park tenants.

If the history of mobile home park closures in Oregon were to be written, the courageous actions by tenants at two parks in Clackamas County and by the Wilsonville City Council would command center stage. On Oct. 17 by a unanimous vote, the council passed an ordinance requiring owners to pay for their tenants' relocation costs, or to purchase their homes if they can't be moved. This dramatic enhancement of the state law was drafted by city attorneys to "mitigate the public health and welfare demands" created by such closures. To my mind, the Eugene City Council now needs to follow Wilsonville's lead.

The reality is that the 1,412 mobile home parks in Oregon represent the single largest block of affordable housing in Oregon and therefore need protection. Unfortunately, current state law offers none when it comes to closures. The Oregon Housing and Community Services lists 44 parks that have closed since 1997, although they admit their information is not complete. Many cities concerned about this trend were reported to have asked Wilsonville for copies of the new ordinance.

This new development would have never happened, however, were it not for the tenants of the two Clackamas parks — Thunderbird in Wilsonville and Willamette Cove in West Linn — who took matters into their own hands. They deserve our thanks because, in a democratic, grassroots action, they brought this issue to the attention of Oregonians statewide. They wrote letters to the editor, picketed prospective developers, lobbied their state representatives to get new legislation passed, and tried to secure funding to buy their parks. These brave folks are the Rosa Parks of affordable housing.

Throwing these vulnerable people out on the streets to make a "killing" doesn't represent good community values.

Now the park owners are being forced to take a good look at their actions, if for nothing else than to counter a growing public sentiment that throwing these vulnerable people out on the streets to make a "killing" doesn't represent good community values. Clearly, they are losing the public relations battle. Today the two Clackamas parks for sale have no prospective buyers except the tenants themselves.

Roger Ash, owner of the Thunderbird, has predictably brought a lawsuit against Wilsonville. William Dickas, his attorney, complained in a newspaper article that the council was acting like a "sovereign nation" and is "not permitted to choose which rights of citizens it will honor and which it will take away." But the city of Wilsonville *is* sovereign and has the power to "fill in" where it thinks state law is deficient, as long as it doesn't contradict that law. Governmental bodies have always made these kinds of decisions in an attempt to balance individual rights with good public policy. It is a matter of fairness and equity that drives such decisions, notwithstanding the pronouncements of hired lawyers for the rich and powerful.

Ironically, Eugene was the first city to have an enhanced ordinance regarding park closures. Passed by the City Council in the early 1980s, it protects a handful of parks located in areas zoned industrial and commercial and on floodplains. The ordinance was drafted at a time when there were few closures, and its intent was to protect tenants in parks the city might want to move to more appropriate residential-zoned areas. The problem is that the figure it requires owners to pay tenants — up to \$3,500 in relocation expenses — has never been updated and is now entirely inadequate. In addition, it only applies to special categories of tenants: low income persons, disabled people and seniors over 70. Why shouldn't every tenant in every park be protected?

What concerns me is that between now and January 2008, when new, more equitable legislation could become law, owners will try to make the most of their existing legal advantage. This is already happening in west Eugene with the subdivision conversion of Hidden Meadows, a park with 102 units. Most tenants there don't have the resources to buy their lots, assuming the owners allow a mix of stick-built and mobile homes, which is highly unlikely. And outside the city, the possibility of new developments in Glenwood, especially if Triad/McKenzie-Willamette decides to situate a hospital there, will endanger its parks, adding to depletion of affordable housing in the metro area.

For these reasons, the Eugene City Council needs to revisit this ordinance now. Like Wilsonville, Eugene can make good public policy by protecting the tenants' investment in their homes and the stock of affordable housing in the city. If the councilors have the courage to do so, perhaps the county and Springfield will follow. Not to do so means turning our backs on this most vulnerable population.

Peter Ferris was a mobile home tenant for two years in west Eugene and now lives in a park in Waldport. He can be reached at bumpy73@yahoo.com



TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

by Shannon Wheeler



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NEW TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BOOK, 'HOW TO BE HAPPY, OUT NOW!!!'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMON METH

Regarding Chris Pender's letter concerning meth hype (11/10), I would suggest his concern is a matter of semantics. Meth is a drug that turns people into toothless zombies since it destroys dental work. It causes overproduction of the dopamines in the brain that are related to sexual pleasure. A recovering addict is bereft of these chemicals.

The addiction is so powerful that addicts destroy newspaper machines and parking meters to fuel the hunger. They break into my car and steal my stuff as well. They subject their children to houses of ridiculously toxic chemicals to cook the stuff. And in some extreme cases they wander down the street naked and masturbating in January after tweaking for days (yeah, that actually happened here in Eugene).

Meth abuse is a most hideous demon that eventually affects us all whether it's through direct effects such as addiction, theft of property or indirect effects on local governments through taxes from incarceration, rehabilitation and repair of public utilities. Call it what you will. It is still completely unacceptable.

Davy Ray
Eugene



Commissioners should also serve as goodwill ambassadors from county government. The efforts of far west Lane residents to carve Siuslaw County out of Lane County should have sent a signal that there is a huge disconnect between area voters and a commissioner who ranges from remote to downright hostile to local concerns.

Why else would residents of areas like Indian Creek outside of Mapleton have formed a citizen militia to combat burglary? Who ya gonna call? An absent commissioner or sheriffs based in Eugene?

Particularly when that commissioner voted against monies for an additional deputy for the rural areas.

Before we're asked to pony up for a sales tax, Morrison should re-think her sales pitch.

Leo Ellingson
Florence

DEATH BY VOLVO

I saw you, but I guess you didn't see me, as you turned directly in front of me and nearly caused my death. Me — law-abiding cyclist in bright yellow rain gear. You — spaced out hippy in blue Volvo. Nice stickers! I almost died.

You want to save the planet? Maybe you should stop driving a damn car, you lazy bum!

Taylor Pierson
Eugene

COPS AND TAXES

Commissioner Anna Morrison's downplaying county polling results that show a 70 percent preference for a business gross receipts tax (over \$250,000 income) reveals her trying to cherry-pick her desired sales tax solution for law enforcement funding.

Granted, public safety poses deadly serious and complex issues. But politicians like Morrison who make a habit of disregarding citizens' feelings on local issues (such as the brazen effort to log and develop key sections of the 80-acre dunes parcel across from Old Town Florence) shouldn't be surprised to encounter public resistance when they come asking for more taxes.

SCUMBAG ECONOMY

In response to the Nov. 23 letter "Meth Nightmare": The solution to the drug problem always has been and always will be very simple. The state and federal legislatures have the power to substantially stop the drug trade anytime they want.

Anyone convicted of manufacturing, distributing or selling certain substances would receive a mandatory life sentence without parole (to be served in a federal prison in the desert of New Mexico without air condition-

ing, no TV and minimal food, etc).

If one convicted was willing to do productive work replacing bureaucrats, the inmate may be transferred to a prison close to family with TV, better food, etc.; but they could be sent back to New Mexico if they goofed off. This should also apply to everyone receiving a life sentence without parole through state and federal convictions.

But the fact is that politicians do NOT believe in enforcing the law. The politician's philosophy is that crime is an industry and law enforcement is an industry. Both employ a lot of people. The fact that drug dealers are murdering thousands of people and causing untold misery is totally irrelevant. The economy is more important.

The failure of any legislature to pass a three-strikes-you're-out law until after the citizens did proves the above. And now the politicians are trying to get the three-strike laws declared unconstitutional by the courts.

So suck in your chest — take a deep breath — and get used to drug dealers being everywhere you go. These scumbags are part of our economy.

Frank Skipton
Springfield

NOT OUR ACTIVIST

It breaks my heart to learn that I live in a community where Jeff "Free" Luers is put on a pedestal and praised as a "political activist." What are we teaching our children? That it is OK to commit a heinous act of vandalism as long as you are trying to convey a message? Eugene needs to think twice about who they look up to.

Jeff Luers is *not* a political activist. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and César Chávez were political activists. Luers is a convicted felon who openly admits to three counts of arson. Just because he claims it was done with a message does not give him the right to use that label.

Mr. Luers claims that he has sacrificed 22 years of his life in an attempt to spread the message of global warming. I say he threw away 22 years of his life for a senseless act of violence.

Scott Wilson
Eugene

HOW TO DO IT?

I read with interest Dan Robinson's letter "Bridge Pork" (11/23). I agree with some of what he says, but I am very concerned about a statement he made towards the end of his letter. Mr. Robinson states that we should be looking at reducing the population. He does not state if it is just Oregon's population or the U.S. at large, but since the article was about bridges in Oregon I am assuming he means the population of this state. He does not mention how we should reduce the population.

Are we to reduce the population by forced

abortion, moving people out of Oregon to other states, placing some of the population in slave labor or re-education camps, euthanasia or exterminating the old and disabled? Oh, I forgot a couple of ideas for reducing the population: We could pass a state law banning any woman, single or married, from having babies, or allowing married couples to have only one child. This is working very well in communist China — except, that is, if you are a baby girl.

I do not know what Mr. Robinson means, but he does concern me. One thing we do not need, however, is more money spent on a public school system that is not working!

W. Joe Lyon
Eugene

LEIKEN EXPOSED

Your spotlighting (Slant 12/8) Eugene writer George Beres' recent highly documented exposé of Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken's disturbing pattern of lying to the press and public alike is right on target.

While Leiken whines to *EW*, saying "Who is George Beres, I don't know him at all," he sidesteps Beres' overwhelming evidence of Leiken's lack of trustworthiness. Leiken lied to reporters asking about PeaceHealth's abandonment of Eugene for Springfield, cloaking in secrecy his absolute betrayal of Springfield's McKenzie-Willamette community hospital.

He totally betrayed Bill Dwyer by publicly endorsing him on April 7 this year, joining his Steering-Advisory Committee and then, within weeks, plotting secretly over six months to defeat him, while never, to this date, having the decency to tell him.

Leiken asked local Democrats to help launch him into office, then stabbed them in the back by switching to Republican in order to garner Eugene developer money and scheme for an eventual run at DeFazio's congressional seat. He serves on the Springfield Economic Development Agency and has personally represented interests eyeing land acquisition in Glenwood while sitting in on highly sensitive executive sessions.

Leiken is trying to re-make himself into a pro-sales tax, anti-abortion, anti-gay marriage and pro-Iraq War Republican loyalist. It's his characteristic, almost pathological, disloyalty and lying that Beres has exposed so brilliantly.

Sally Nunn
Eugene

WAL-MART ROCKS

Since retiring I have worked for Sears, Target, K-Mart and Jerry's. I want someone to tell me where I can find a better box store to work for, or shop in, than Wal-Mart. Not those listed above. I have never worked for Wal-Mart but have friends who do work for them.

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- 02.23 Dick Hyman
- 03.02-11 Jazz Kings: Days of Wine...
- 03.07 The Oak Ridge Boys (Hult)
- 03.09 Symphonia: Classical Goodman
- 03.11 Hapa
- 03.18 Moombah: Mitch's Shamrock
- 03.21 Bill Frisell 858 Quintet
- 03.25 Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- 04.04 Kathy Mattea
- 04.06 Luciana Souza/Rom. Lubambo
- 04.09 Pahunui/Kamakahi/Kahumoku
- 04.27 Judy Collins
- 05.07 John Pizzarelli Quintet
- 03.11-20 Jazz Kings: Harry & Hoagy
- 05.17 Mark O'Connor - AWT
- 05.20 Cowboy Rumbles
- 05.25 Symphonia: American Portraits
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Holes in the Brain

A peculiar, and not so sweet connection.

Last month I was preparing for a speech in Washington, D.C., on our relationship to "emerging contaminants." Emerging contaminants are toxic chemicals like nanoparticles, pharmaceuticals, and brominated fire retardants that start turning up in places like umbilical cord blood and fish. While the speech was on my mind, an e-mail arrived about a recent National Toxicology Program review of scientific studies on the artificial sweetener aspartame, which is in about 5,000 products under brand names such as NutraSweet and Equal. The review concluded that aspartame is a "multipotential carcinogen," meaning it causes numerous types of cancer. I poked about on the web a bit to find when we first had hints that aspartame causes cancer.



The story I found brought me full circle from toxics to the war on Iraq to home. In December 1965, a researcher at the pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle was testing aspartame as a possible ulcer drug when he accidentally discovered how sweet aspartame tastes. To be precise, 180 times sweeter than sugar, with no calories. One drawback is that aspartame is a third methanol which is transformed into the toxic formaldehyde and formic acid inside your body.

By spring 1967, Searle began safety tests that are necessary for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a food additive such as aspartame. By fall 1967 (when I arrived at University of Wisconsin), a biochemist at the university was conducting aspartame safety tests on seven infant monkeys. One died and five had grand mal seizures.

By spring 1971, neuroscientist Dr. John Olney (whose research on MSG was responsible for its removal from baby foods) told Searle his research showed aspartame was causing holes in the brains of infant mice.

In February 1973 Searle submitted 100 aspartame studies to the FDA and by March 1974 the FDA had approved aspartame for restricted use in dry foods. Dr. Olney and attorney Jim Turner (who had been key in the withdrawal of the artificial sweetener cyclamate from the market because it was a carcinogen) filed an objection to aspartame's approval. This triggered an FDA investigation of Searle's laboratory practices. The investigators found Searle's testing procedures full of inaccuracies and "manipulated" test data, and reported they "had never seen anything as bad as Searle's testing."

In 1976 the FDA requested the U.S. Attorney's office to begin grand jury proceedings to investigate whether indictments should be filed against Searle for "concealing material facts and making false statements" in aspartame safety tests. Searle's law firm promptly began job negotiations with Samuel Skinner, the U.S. attorney in charge of the investigation.

In March 1977 G.D. Searle hired a new CEO: Donald Rumsfeld, former secretary of defense under President Gerald Ford. Samuel Skinner joined Searle's law firm, and the statute of limitations ran out on the grand jury investigation.

In 1980 an FDA Public Board of Inquiry concluded that aspartame should not be approved pending further investigations of brain tumors. Three of the FDA's six in-house scientists reviewed the tumor studies and advised against aspartame approval.

In January 1981, Searle CEO Rumsfeld told a sales meeting he was going to "call in his chips" to get aspartame approved within the year. That same month, Ronald Reagan was sworn in as president with Rumsfeld part of Reagan's transition team. The team picked Dr. Arthur Hayes of the Defense Department to be the new FDA commissioner. Hayes' first official decision was to approve full use of aspartame in dry food products, overruling the FDA's Public Board of Inquiry and scientists. Hayes' last official act before he resigned over controversy about taking unauthorized General Foods jet rides, and before he joined Searle's public relations firm as a consultant, was to approve aspartame for use in beverages.

So no, aspartame isn't newly emerging as a carcinogen, and Rumsfeld's behavior as Searle CEO brings three thoughts to mind:

First, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's leap over lack of WMD evidence, his own military's advice, and UN process to get President Bush's Iraq War underway is a well-practiced move.

Second, a child or soldier who dies in Iraq from a bomb and an adult who dies in the U.S. from aspartame-caused cancer share at least one person in common who contributed to their death.

Third, whenever politically positioned people, whether nationally or locally, regard law and evidence as mere hurdles to leap over to get what they want, it's our job as citizens to keep those laws in place, that evidence in the open, and those people in line.

Mary O'Brien of Eugene has worked as a public interest scientist since 1981. She can be reached at mob@efn.org

They have a few minor complaints but have generally found Wal-Mart to be as good a place to work as is available.

Wal-Mart offers more perks than the competition and their employees are fairly treated. With personal experience I can verify that the other stores I have worked for were neither different nor better. If someone is looking for a warm, fuzzy, benevolent place to work with lots of perks, retirement and other benefits, perhaps Greenwald can direct them to some. Unless he can, he needs to find something else to do. I know of no such places.

If you are fortunate enough to live near a Wal-Mart Superstore with groceries, you are twice blessed. No finer grocery store exists with the same quality products and low prices.

There is some good news that Greenwald and the other Wal-Mart bashers want to completely ignore. They forget the many people, no doubt millions, who benefit from Wal-Mart stores and products. I am sorry for displaced mom-and-pop stores but the benefit to Wal-Mart shoppers is by far the greater good. The quality and variety of Wal-Mart products is equal to or superior to the other stores I have mentioned, with much lower prices. These are the key words. Many people with limited incomes are able to purchase products that they otherwise could not afford. Greenwald does not consider them, which is typical of people who do not have to be concerned with tight budgets.

No doubt Wal-Mart will continue to be bashed for being good merchandisers, but that is the price they must pay for being number one.

Harv Hess
Eugene

REPUBLICAN DEBT

This Iraq War has cost us over \$300 billion so far. However, Bush and Cheney's friends (Halliburton and other companies) have made billions from this war. The oil companies made a record-breaking \$274 billion profit last year. So President Bush gives them a \$6 billion tax exemption.

The Republican Congress has allotted billions to pork-political projects, including a \$270 million Alaskan bridge that will reach 50 people. There's no effort to cut this pork to help our national debt.

While CEOs retire with \$33 million pensions, based on padded work records, workers have seen their retirement investments and medical insurance wiped out. The Republican Congress has passed laws to allow companies to scrap health insurance promised to employees and forbidden employees to sue to enforce retirement benefits.

Sixty percent of U.S. companies pay no income tax. Congress will pass a \$70 billion tax cut. The Republican-controlled House Agricultural Committee approved budget cuts — at the urging of the Bush White House — that would take food stamps from an estimated 300,000 people and cut off school lunches and breakfasts for 40,000 children.

"The fact is, our country is going broke," said Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio. "We're spending money we don't have and passing it on to our kids, and at some point, somebody's got to pay. Enough is enough." Who's paying? Not the wealthy Republicans with their pub-

licly funded pork projects. No. The poor will pay. As will the kids who don't have food to eat.

Robert Rubinstein
Eugene

CANCER CUTS

As someone who has been touched by cancer as an American Cancer Society volunteer, I believe that investing in cancer research and programs should be a top national priority. That's why I was so disappointed to learn that Congress could cut cancer research funding by as much as \$100 million this year.

A cut in cancer funding could lead to delays in the development of new cancer-fighting drugs and treatments, screenings that detect cancer at its earliest stages, and programs that improve the quality of life of cancer patients. A funding cut would mark the first time in more than a decade that the federal government has reduced support for cancer research.

In September, 92 Senators and 280 Members of the House signed a letter supporting the Bush administration's goal to eliminate suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015. With adequate funding, we can make cancer a disease people live with, rather than die from.

Thirty years ago a cancer diagnosis left many without hope. Today, 10 million Americans are survivors of the disease. Now Congress has the chance to ensure that there is enough money invested in research and programs to allow for far more progress in the future.

I urge my congressional delegation to oppose any cuts in cancer research and programs. Rather than reverse our progress in the war against cancer, Congress should give the gift of hope to cancer patients and their families this holiday season.

Valerie Pederson
Oakridge

VOTE FOR TYRANNY

In the Nov. 17 issue you failed to mention one of last week's most important political events: a vote by the U.S. Senate to strip the right of habeas corpus from so-called "enemy combatants." Habeas corpus is the right that prohibits the government from imprisoning individuals (literally, "holding the body") without charge.

Residents of Oregon should know how their senators voted on this critical bill, which in effect repealed for a certain class of persons a right that has been considered the cornerstone of a free society since it first appeared in the Magna Carta of 1215.

To my utter disgust, Ron Wyden was one of five Democrats whose support for the bill allowed its passage. As far as I am concerned, this vote alone — so fundamental is this right to the structure of our civil society — is the end of whatever claim Wyden might make to be a progressive candidate.

I will never again support him for reelection, and I strongly urge your readers to do the same. Though I would hate to lose Wyden's seat to a Republican, this regressive vote for tyranny reveals a deficiency of judgment that should be unacceptable.

Kudos to Senator Gordon Smith for voting against his party and against this bill.

Timothy M. Shaw
Eugene



Fear of Forestry

OPB documentary looks at innovation in timber industry.

EW invited Eric Cain, producer of OPB's documentary *The Oregon Story: Rethinking the Forests*, to respond to a news brief Nov. 17 in which local environmentalists were highly critical of the film's content and government funding.

What OPB actively publicize the fact that the "Oregon Story" series has been funded by money from USDA Rural Development – each program begins and ends with a credit to that effect. These grants have been a real boon for us, and we're grateful for them.

Having worked on the series since the beginning, producing nine of the 20 episodes, I can say with certainty that we have never, ever, not once, at any time, in any way, shape or form, experienced even a hint of editorial influence from the USDA or anyone affiliated with it. No one there has ever suggested editorial direction nor have we ever discussed it with them; we have never screened advance copies of shows for them, nor have they ever asked to see them. USDA approval or disapproval is simply not – nor has ever been – a factor we consider when making content decisions, period.

I think that raising questions about possible funder influence on content is good – I'd do the same. But the answer is: Our funder, the USDA, has had none.

In that same vein, the OPB staff has been quite unhappy with recent (and hopefully failed) attempts to politicize the programming of PBS via its funding entity, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Our own CEO, Maynard Orme, is one of the network's most adamant and outspoken critics of those efforts. OPB gets plenty of calls and mail alleging that we're either lackeys of the Liberal Media Agenda or mouthpieces for a Right Wing Conspiracy, but the fact of the matter is we're really quite independent in our production and programming.

Oregonians stand to lose a lot of hard-fought environmental ground in the next few years if we urban types can't set aside out-of-date rhetoric, confrontational tactics and our "fear of forestry."

Oregon is home to some of the top forestry science and talent in the world, able to manage forests for a vast array of diversity, habitat, product and aesthetic values. We need to use these people's skills. Tens of thousands of tree farmers, loggers and mill workers live here too, among them plenty of real-life conservationists and even harsh critics of Big Timber. People with "forest" in their job descriptions are not the enemy.

I wish we could also own up to some of the inconsistencies in our approaches to conservation: Why are clearcuts and plantations acceptable in other countries but not here? How can we justify mowing down great swaths of temperate rainforest in Canada or ancient boreal forest in Siberia to save second-growth trees in Oregon?

We praise the virtues of locally grown produce. Why don't we extend the same pride-of-origin to log trucks loaded with home-grown timber? Seriously.

No one should be logging old-growth virgin forest, but most of our public forests are second or third growth. And so what if timber lobbyists claim that trees are a renewable resource? It's true. Those guys may exploit the "forest health problem," too, but it's real.

Why is so much of the discussion about public forest management reactionary? We've become effusive about what we oppose in our forests, but who can say what we actually WANT? And without some clear vision of what we expect Oregon's forests to look like, we're going nowhere fast.



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• We just confirmed an outrageous rumor that the misdemeanor trespassing case against Perry Patterson – tossed out of Eugene Municipal Court by Judge Alan Lyman – is being prosecuted by the city of Eugene in Lane County District Court with a date set for Feb. 16. This was an idiotic case to begin with. Patterson had a ticket to the Dick Cheney rally at Monaco Coach in Coburg last September and was arrested when she blurted out the word “no” when the VP said Bush has made the world safer. “I think the city fears we may sue them,” Patterson’s attorney Lauren Regan tells us. “Why else would they bother to waste the time and money prosecuting a citizen with no prior record at all?” Good point. What can the city possibly gain from this case other than more ill will and providing critics with one more blatant example of selective prosecution? We haven’t heard back from city prosecutor Mark Haight.

• In case you missed it, our cover story last week looked closely at the internal strife at Lane Transit District and complaints against General Manager Ken Hamm. Hamm resigned the next day. Our story generated several positive calls and notes from readers, but we also got complaints about the cover, and one reader demanded that we apologize to Hamm for putting “monster ears” on him. Actually, the photo illustration was LTD’s creation. The image is from an LTD meeting flier, and was apparently Hamm’s self-deprecating attempt to show he really *does* listen to employees – a response to one of the chronic complaints against him. We mentioned the big-ears flier in the story, and had a note about it next to the image on the cover, but some readers assumed it was *EW*’s creation. We *never* ridicule public figures. Well, not this time.

• Regarding our Slant blurb last week on the Sid Leiken exposé in the *Springfield News*, we heard from *SN* Editor John Finn that George Beres’ source for the research in the piece was not from the *SN* staff. Most likely it was a *SN* contributing columnist, says Finn. Meanwhile, Leiken, in response to the accusation in Beres’ commentary that he is “shifty” in supporting, then opposing Commissioner Bill Dwyer, notes, “Didn’t John Kitzhaber and Vicki Walker both endorse Ted Kulongoski before?” Leiken also noticed our news brief on Dwyer calling for Triad/MWMC to build in Glenwood, and says, “I am glad Bill feels the same way I do ... I don’t know if he just realized this all of sudden or if he is finally up to speed with the vast majority of Springfield citizens.” This is all pissy little stuff. The big issues coming up will be how Dwyer and Leiken differ or agree on sprawl, corporate candy, public safety funding, GLBT rights and natural resources management.

• One view of the Oregon open primary plan that Phil Keisling and Norma Paulus are pushing for the ballot next year comes from former Gov. Barbara Roberts. She is flat-out, unequivocally opposed to it. She appointed Keisling to be secretary of state but she hesitated not one minute to blast his plan when she was in Eugene recently for a Democratic fund-raiser. In Keisling’s primary, all candidates would appear on one ballot. Regardless of party, the top two winners would move to the general election in November. Roberts is a fierce advocate and product of the party system. The open primary would virtually wipe out party power.

• The race for Position 6 on the Oregon Supreme Court is looking a little wild. Judge Virginia Linder of Salem, who’s on the state Court of Appeals, just filed. The Oregon Supreme Court has no women, but Judge Linder may be too conservative for most feminists. Gene Hallman, a lawyer from Pendleton, also has filed, and some say the court does need a member from rural Oregon. More liberal, he’s supported by the Oregon trial lawyers. And Jack Roberts of Eugene, Republican candidate for governor last round and current director of economic development for this metro area, is talking about filing. Next?



Jack Roberts

• Anybody down here know the only collegiate team in the state of Oregon that won a Division One national championship this year? The women’s soccer team at the little University of Portland. And if you watched their match on Sunday against UCLA, you saw a great sporting event. *The Oregonian* has given the Pilots lots of ink, but most of the media doesn’t get it that hordes of kids and parents are playing and watching soccer in this state.



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

EPD YET TO COME CLEAN

Roger Magaña was convicted last year of raping, sexually abusing, assaulting and harassing a dozen women over six years as a Eugene police officer. After the verdict, Police Chief Robert Lehner promised at a press conference that the department would publicly come clean. The chief said he would conduct a thorough internal investigation of the department’s failings in hiring, supervising and disciplining Magaña and another convicted officer, Juan Lara, and release the results to the public.

A year and a half later, no such public accounting has occurred.

Lehner told the Eugene City Club last month that he won’t reveal the department’s failings while the department is being sued by women victimized by the two police officers. “The right time to get that information out is not while these investigations [by the women’s lawyers] are under way and these trials are under way,” the police chief said.

Lehner said the department still has an “obligation” to explain to the public how it failed and will do so “as soon as the civil litigation is concluded.”

The city has so far paid out \$1.06 million to settle six civil lawsuits by the officers’ victims. Another six cases are still pending, with the women asking for about \$32 million in actual and punitive damages.

Without a settlement, such civil litigation can drag on for years and years with

long trials and appeals.

Although Lehner refuses to provide a public report of EPD failings in the sex scandal, he appears to have already concluded that other officers and city officials should not be held responsible for hiring and failing to turn in, supervise and discipline the two criminal cops for so many years. A lot of “systems” within EPD contributed to the failure, Lehner said. “There’s no smoking gun.”

That explanation and the lack of a full public report on whether other officers were complicit or culpable in the officer sex abuse scandals may do little to satisfy the public. As a *Register-Guard* editorial noted May 4, 2005, “a full accounting is essential to restoring the public trust.”

While fessing up could increase the city’s liability to the women victims, the lack of public trust stonewalling creates also has its costs. Critics have said a lack of public trust can make a city more difficult and expensive to police, result in voters declining to increase police funding, and lead to high jury verdicts. — Alan Pittman

BIKE PATH EXPANSION

When President Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), he not only reinforced the federal government’s obsession with acronyms but also jumpstarted the process of connecting Springfield bicyclists with the rivers and ecosystems surrounding them.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District, working with the city of Springfield, received \$3 million in federal transportation funding from SAFETEA-LU to design, engineer and build a bicycle and pedestrian path along the north bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River in Springfield.

The three-mile Middle Fork Willamette



River Loop Path would connect the Dorris Ranch Living History Farm with Clearwater Park, where it will eventually connect to a path along the Springfield Mill Race. When used with existing street lanes, the planned path would form an eight-mile loop beginning in downtown Springfield and connecting to the extensive riverfront path system in Eugene. The proposed path will also provide the first off-street connection between east and west Springfield south of Main Street.

"This is what people in Springfield told us they wanted [in a 400-person survey]," says Rebecca Gershow, a park planner for

Willamalane. "Springfield is surrounded by rivers and this is providing people with great access to these rivers and an opportunity to experience nature close to home."

The preliminary planning is under way and before Christmas Willamalane plans to submit the perspectives that must be approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Once approved, the funds designated by SAFETEA-LU will be released and contractors can be hired to start the detailed planning.

The tentative schedule has the detailed designing and engineering taking place in 2006, the right-of-way acquisition in 2007 and construction in 2008 and possibly 2009. Willamalane has a five-year window to complete the project.

Seventy to 80 percent of the land needed for the path is already publicly owned and Willamalane doesn't foresee

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LIVE AND LOCAL

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

LINDSEY REYNOLDS

In her freshman year at South Eugene High School, Lindsey Reynolds joined a peer education program called AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention. "I stayed with it all four years," she says. "I spent an incredible amount of time teaching HIV prevention." After graduation in 2000, Reynolds left for Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., where she ran a similar peer education program that served 14 schools. She won a grant to travel to South Africa for a thesis on HIV prevention efforts in KwaZulu-Natal province. There she also spent time helping out at a rural AIDS hospice, where fellow Wesleyan student Angela Larkin was studying orphan-care strategies. On their return, Reynolds and Larkin founded Thembanathi ("hope with us" in Zulu), a small-scale project to raise funds for day care at the hospice. Visit www.thembanathi.org to learn more. A \$5 donation will purchase a hand-beaded AIDS pin similar to the one in the photo. Reynolds will be selling other hand-crafted items from South Africa from noon to 6 pm Saturday, Dec. 10, at a Human Rights Day event at the UO Law School, and from noon to 5 pm the following day at 1452 Barber Drive in Eugene (call 345-6144).

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news Briefs

any problems obtaining the rest, based on "previous discussions with the private landowners."

Along with the design and construction of the Middle Fork Loop path, part of the \$3 million will be used for a feasibility assessment of a bicyclist/pedestrian bridge across the Middle Fork, thereby connecting Springfield residents to Mount Pisgah.

As smooth as the process is going now, it's still not guaranteed that there will be a path. "Technically, it's not for sure. There's a series of approvals we'll have to get along the way," says Gershow. "But we are committed to making this happen."

— Tim O'Rourke

Victor left Chile a refugee, immigrating first to Argentina, then to Brazil, then the U.S. While in the states he became a client of the Oregon Health & Science University's Intercultural Psychiatric Program in Eugene, whose mission it is to provide services and treatment to victims of torture, trauma and political violence from Central and South America.

On Dec. 10 Siempre Amigos in collaboration with OHSU-IPP will be hosting a benefit dinner to raise awareness about members of our community with stories in their past like Victor's.

Siempre Amigos and OHSU-IPP is holding this dinner to "create awareness in the community about [OHSU-IPP] clients who have been victims of political violence. It's also International Human Rights Day, and we want to spread the message to stop political violence around the world," says Ruth Vargas-Forman, clinical program supervisor at OHSU-IPP and an alumnus of Victor's.

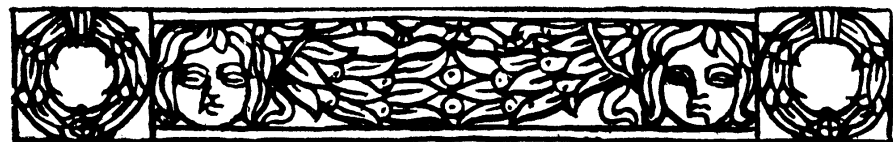
The benefit is being held at World Café and will feature guest speakers, poetry readings, live music and, of course, Latin American cuisine. Admission to the event is free, and dinner costs \$10; \$2.50 of which directly benefits Siempre Amigos, a Eugene non-profit formed by Latin American refugees.

The benefit dinner is from 5 to 8:30 pm Saturday, Dec. 10 at World Café, 600 Blair St. — Tim O'Rourke

HELPING OUT THE TORTURED

In 1973 "Victor" was 17 years old and studying political science at a university in Chile. He was popular and his grades were high; a bright future seemed ahead of him. But because of his focus of study and intelligence he was deemed a threat by Pinochet's Chilean government and detained, along with 15 other students from his school, for 17 agonizing days.

All of the detainees were tortured, but only Victor survived. The government released him because he was less than 18 years of age, but his fellow students weren't as lucky.



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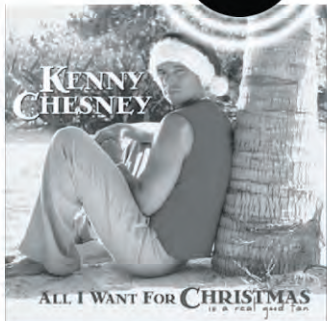


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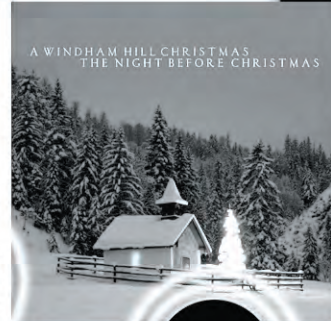
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SHOPPING TO STOP WAR

Local peace activists are combining holiday shopping and peace work when WAND (Women's Action for New Directions) gathers for its year-end meeting from 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Dec. 8 at the McNail-Riley House, 13th and Jefferson. The meeting is open to the public.

WAND members will be discussing a year of successful actions, and will be looking at expanding to become Oregon WAND. Those attending the meeting will also have a chance to shop sustainably. At 8 pm, Carol Berg Caldwell, aka Peace Elf Elfrieda, will be offering "Peaceware" made from reused and recycled garments, and members of Friendship with Cambodia will be offering locally made goods.

Caldwell's "Peace Boutique" includes a variety of garments and accessories crafted by the Churchill High School Peace Club and other volunteers. The theme is "Fashion Yes! Fascism No!"

A recent WAND action was a street demonstration downtown Nov. 12 carrying Burma Shave-inspired signs reading, "There is/No gain/When Prisoner Treatment/Is Inhumane."

"It was enough of a message to force Sen. Ron Wyden to rearrange his schedule and meet with leaders from WAND and other political groups in Eugene and discuss his recent voting record," says Aria Seligmann of WAND. "Attendees at that meeting went home that weekend and got to work to prepare a letter and supporting documents to encourage him to change his vote on allowing prisoners at Guantanamo Bay a writ of habeus corpus."

For more information on WAND, call 343-7970.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

How do you pronounce singer/songwriter Brian Cutean's name? We didn't get it quite right in last week's Holiday Market story, due to an editor's error. The closest phonetic spelling would be "cyoo-tee-en." Sometimes he calls himself QTN, reminding us to make it three syllables. Another problem name for local media is Arlie executive John Musumeci. We spelled it wrong in Slant last week, and we're not sure how he pronounces it. Last June on KOPT radio we heard him say it's "muse-oo-meechy."

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news BY ALAN PITTMAN

What Now?

External police review passed, but cops, city manager could still kill it.

Eugene citizens voted overwhelmingly for an independent citizen review board and auditor for police complaints last month. But whether Measure 20-106 will actually produce much reform behind the solid blue wall at the EPD remains to be seen.

"We're going to do everything in our power to make sure that is successful," Eugene Police Chief Robert Lehner told the City Club after the measure passed. But the Chief warned that although it wasn't discussed much during the election, "any system is subject to the same rules that I am."

Those rules, found in the police union contract and state laws requiring binding arbitration for police labor disputes, have made reform difficult in the past. A decade ago, the union successfully fought off efforts by a previous police chief to toughen discipline by arguing to a state arbitrator that tighter discipline was illegally inconsistent with past, looser discipline, according to state records.

The current union contract sets detailed disciplinary rules and requires the city to bargain for any changes. The Eugene Police Employees Association campaigned aggressively against 20-106, running thousands of dollars in opposition ads. The union could refuse to accept necessary changes in its contract to accommodate external review, forcing the city into binding arbitration or a lawsuit.

How forcefully city management would defend the external review system is unclear. Eugene City Manager Dennis Taylor wrote a letter to the Police Commission opposing an independent auditor/board appointed by the City Council. Taylor favored a board/auditor he would internally appoint and control.

Under Eugene's city manager system, Taylor has sole authority to hire and direct the city attorney, who would defend the charter amendment and external review from any legal challenges by the police union.

City officials could also defeat the review/board auditor by starving it of funding. Independent review systems in other cities have withered because they haven't been made a budget priority.

The auditor/review board also faces a host of other hurdles:

- During the campaign, public confusion on the powers of the auditor/board appeared widespread. The planned auditor/board would be advisory only and have little real power. Some police departments have ignored their advisory review boards with impunity. Portland, San Francisco and Seattle have stronger external review models with real power.

- In Portland the auditor has been viewed as pro-police and the review board pro-civilian, creating tension and mass board resignations. Reform advocates there accused the auditor of seizing power from the review board. Like Portland, Eugene's system gives the auditor sole authority to decide whether to require or contract for additional investigation of complaints. The

auditor is free to ignore the citizen board.

- In Portland and San Francisco, advocates have been frustrated that elected officials have appointed auditors or board members who oppose citizen police review and reform. In Eugene, critics have accused former Mayor Jim Torrey of stacking the existing Police Commission with "police groupies."

- A key reason for the review board/auditor is to restore public trust, but it's unclear how that will happen if the city carries through with plans to keep much of the auditor and review board proceedings and records secret from the public.

- The proposed review board/auditor does not have subpoena power and its requests for information could be ignored by EPD and its officers.

The union could refuse to accept necessary changes in its contract to accommodate external review, forcing the city into binding arbitration or a lawsuit.

If 20-106 is thwarted by the police union, city management and/or City Council, a lot of voters would be left frustrated.

After two EPD officers were convicted last year of sexually abusing more than a dozen women, voters appear to want real change. Measure 20-106 passed by a 58 percent vote and had majority support in 24 of the city's 34 precincts.

Whiteaker voters gave the measure its strongest support with neighborhood precincts voting 80 percent or more for the measure. Many residents in Whiteaker were alarmed by the EPD's use of a tank and dozens of heavily armed officers in a failed search for marijuana a couple years ago.

Student neighborhoods surrounding the UO also voted strongly in favor of the police review measure, with 80-85 percent voting yes. Students have complained for years that the police are heavy handed and unfair in issuing hundreds of tickets a year for alcohol possession near campus.

South Eugene voters strongly supported the measure with three out of four voters in the College Hill and Fairmount neighborhoods voting for police review. Two-thirds of voters in the neighborhoods around Amazon Parkway and in the neighborhood west of Friendly Street also voted for 20-106.

Support for the review measure was below 45 percent in only five north Eugene precincts — in southwest Bethel, north River Road, Willakenzie, Santa Clara, and off north Delta Highway.

With only the review measure on the ballot, turnout was low at 38 percent. In the precinct surrounding the UO turnout was only 11 percent. But the voting pattern indicates that the measure would likely have passed by an even greater margin if everyone had voted. In the low-turnout student neighborhood, eight in 10 voted yes. **EW**

Politics Gone Wild

The Bus Project comes to Lane County.

Forget the negative TV commercials, bone-dry voters' pamphlets and shady corporate contributions. If you want to get young people engaged in politics, you gotta speak to them. You gotta be hip, down, fun, *weird*.

That's the message from the Oregon Bus Project, arguably the hottest new political engine in the state. The organization breaks from traditional campaign activism, avoiding a partisan label (though it has yet to support a Republican candidate) and using slogans such as "Not left, not right, but forward." The Bus Project works for progressive political change over the long term, operating on the notion that volunteerism is the most effective way to battle big corporate money in elections. The movement started four years ago in Portland, and this month the Bus Project opened a permanent Lane County field office on 6th Avenue and Lawrence.

While politics-as-usual sails over the heads of many 18- to 35-year-olds, typically the age group with the lowest voter turnout, Bus Project volunteers seem to *get it*. They registered more than 6,000 youth at Portland hip hop shows last year, dared more than 30,000 candy-givers to "Trick or Vote" last Halloween, and drew a crowd of more than 2,000 at their "Candidates Gone Wild" debates in Portland. When Urban Outfitters

started selling a T-shirt that whined, "Voting is for Old People," the Bus Project retorted on a T-shirt of its own: "Vote, F*cker."

Sounds clowny, but the results are huge. In just four years, the Bus Project may have tilted the balance of power in the state Legislature; nine of the 10 state Senate candidates that the Bus Project supported in the last two elections won, resulting in a solidly Democrat-controlled Senate. Also victorious were six of the seven House candidates and nine of the 10 Lane County candidates that the Bus Project supported last election.

The Lane County office has only two paid staffers: UO student Courtney Anglin, 23, and recent UO grad Adam Petkun, 22. But they don't work alone — they are guided by a steering board of 16 and buttressed by a local volunteer base of more than 1,000 people, about a third of them students. Together, they run positive campaigns for candidates who value what they call "the six e's": education, equal rights, environment, electoral reform, economic fairness and 'ealth care.



Adam Petkun and Courtney Anglin outside the new Bus Project of Lane County office

"There is no acid test for what we're looking for," Petkun said, deadpan. He may have meant "litmus test," but the Kesey connection — freaky young people in a bus, trying to engage a lethargic populace — is hard to avoid.

In a typical Bus Project canvass, about 100 people work for four to five hours, knocking on several thousand doors and asking residents what matters to *them*. According to local Bus Project board chair James Mattiace, canvassing can increase voter turnout by up to 10 percent, whereas phone banking tends to have a minimal effect.

The Bus Project also aims to reach beyond short-term elections by nurturing new leaders. Both Anglin and Petkun are graduates of the Bus Project's new training

camp, called PolitiCorps, whose instructors last summer included former Oregon Govs. John Kitzhaber and Barbara Roberts. The Lane Bus Project will offer internships to college and high school students beginning winter term.

Petkun said that the local progressive community has welcomed the Bus Project to Lane County. Allied nonprofits include the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, FOOD for Lane County, Centro Latino, Sierra Club, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Stand for Children, NARAL Pro-Choice America and several labor unions. And while the Bus Project avoids

identifying with any political party, the local Dems are thrilled to have them around. "We're really excited that they have an office down here," said Val Hoyle, chair of the Democratic Party of Lane County. "We think they do fantastic work."

In the coming year, the local Bus Project will try to stir up sassy political dialogue across the county. Organizers will host monthly live events, beginning with a "Ballot Measure Peep Show" at 8pm next Tuesday, Dec. 13 at Cozmic Pizza, where local political leaders will introduce a range of progressive ballot measures for the November elections.

But wait — don't yawn. This is the Bus Project. "We're guaranteeing scandal and debauchery for that event," Anglin said. "It's not your father's politics." **EW**



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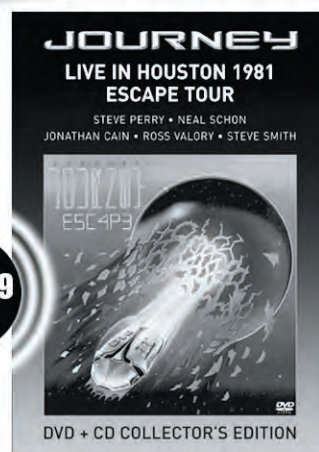
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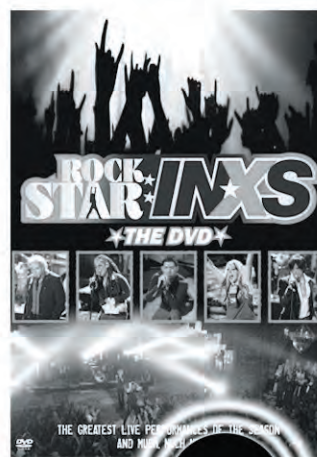
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winter reading

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non-fiction/memoir

GRIEF

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. Knopf, 2005. Hardcover. \$23.95. **2005 Winner: National Book Award for Nonfiction. One of the 10 Best Books of 2005, The New York Times.**

Joan Didion earned her reputation as an unflinching and deliberately nonobjective chronicler of modern day political and social society in the 1960s and 1970s. In the early 1980s she stared into and wrote about one of the darkest corners of the times, the grisly civil war between the Army and rebel guerrillas in El Salvador.

But her well-trained eye and fearless observations could not prepare her for the one event that would bring her to her knees, the unexpected death of her husband and long-time writing companion, John Gregory Dunne, on December 30, 2003. Dunne died of a massive coronary just hours after the couple had arrived home from visiting their daughter, Quintana Roo, who was in an intensive care unit recovering from septic shock.

A loving and wrenching meditation on memory, loss, grief and marriage, *The Year of Magical Thinking* revisits the days and months following her husband's death. What underscores the book's searingly painful jour-

JOAN
DIDION
THE YEAR OF
MAGICAL
THINKING

punch.

Didion recreates the grieving process and in so doing gives its lurching, unpredictable and illogical grasping a massive dose of permission. Yes, certain places and scenes act as a slow fuse, igniting a devastating trail of memories that, when over, only made her loss that much more unbearable. But it was essential for Didion to travel those mazes, no matter how difficult. They were her life. Their life together.

It is the way of any great truth to defy verbal description and become more profound by repetition. Didion knows this, and she recreates rhythms and motifs throughout her book. This is one refrain she returns to, over and over:

"Life changes fast. Life changes in the instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends. The question of self-pity."

Didion's book is difficult and heart-wrenching but brave and supremely

important. In her measured, literate way, she shows us that she too has feet of clay, that her tears are made of salt and water, that a high-profile literary life did not protect her from experiencing the numbness and nakedness that comes in the wake of a great loss. I don't know why it is that great writers give us such permission for what we already suspect to be true, but they do.

During an October '05 interview with "Fresh Air" host Terry Gross, Didion received the news that her book had been nominated for a National Book Award. Her

"I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see and what it means."

— Joan Didion, from "Why I Write," *The New York Times Magazine*, 12/05/76.

ney is that, when published in early 2005, Didion's daughter was expected to recover. However, she died this past August (2005).

Didion did not choose to make changes to the book following her daughter's death. Written to center on the loss of a husband, the book now includes, for readers, the loss of her daughter, doubling the pain and the

reaction was muted. This is what really meant something: When her husband, 25 days before he died, on December 5, 2004, Didion's birthday, re-read a scene from one of her novels. He closed the book and told her: "Don't ever tell me again you can't write. That's my birthday present to you." — *Alice Tallmadge*

FAMILY MATTERS

Burning Fence by Craig Lesley. St. Martin's Press, 2005. Hardcover, \$33.95.

Novelist Craig Lesley's memoir, *Burning Fence*, begins with a forest fire and ends with birthday candles. In between these contrasting flames, Lesley describes his many attempts to reconnect with his father. His heart-wrenching quest is a testament to the inescapable influence of family.

Rudell Lesley served with distinction during World War II. Back home, he seemed detached and soon abandoned his wife and infant son. Lesley's mother put food on the table and supplied "unconditional love." In spite of their hardscrabble life, she maintained that "better times are just around the corner" each time they moved to escape a situation turned sour.

Lesley recounts emblematic boyhood adventures, but his happy times are always cut short by the chaos that dogs the disenfranchised. When Lesley is mangled by a peppermint chopper, Rudell goes to see his son for the first time in 15 years. The visit puts the boy into shock, but not before Rudell observes that Lesley, who has had the fingertips of his right hand chopped off, is destined to be "a southpaw like your old man. Always stuck at first base."

Determined not to be "a loser" like his father, Lesley becomes a teacher, marries, and adopts a son, Wade, who is severely damaged from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The demands of raising Wade strain the marriage and weaken Lesley's conviction to be a better father than the one he had. He drives Wade to his father's trailer outside Monument, hoping that Rudell's life in the wilderness, where he builds fences, hunts elk and traps coyotes might suit Wade, and that the father who never helped him might finally lend a hand.

Lesley covers lots of gritty territory but never lapses into sensationalism. His sense

of fairness and his dry humor are evident in every chapter. *Burning Fence* is a fascinating book you'll want to share with friends — and maybe even family. — *Cecelia Hagen*

IN AMERICA

Teacher Man By Frank McCourt. Scribner, 2005. Hardcover, \$26.

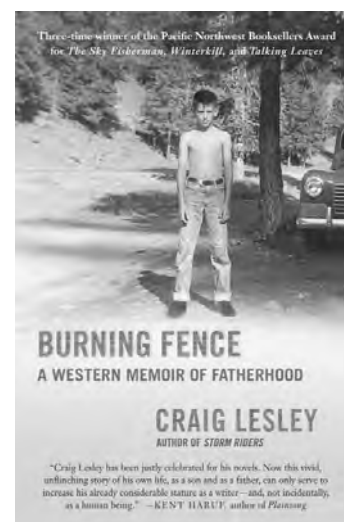
Fans of Frank McCourt's miserable Irish childhood should tread cautiously on his third memoir, *Teacher Man*. It's not that it wants for Celtic gloom. And his self-flagellating, empathetic voice is as distinct as ever. It's just that *Teacher Man* is preempted by what *Angela's Ashes* (the book, the movie, the Happy Meal) lets us know: that Frankie left the wee green rock of poverty for New York, where want was still present but came in a much subtler different form.

Teacher Man chronicles McCourt's 30 years teaching high school in New York's public schools. From a vocational school in Staten Island through itinerant substituting to Manhattan's elite Stuyvesant School, McCourt taught writing and grammar to kids who would've preferred doing anything else.

When *Teacher Man* is not about teaching, it's a midlife crisis story about being caught between a childhood with no choices and an adulthood with many. As a working class immigrant, McCourt's decision to become a teacher instead of, say, a traditional Irish job like cop or fireman, is a transgression hard to fathom a half-century removed. And yet, it seems McCourt wasn't transgressive enough. Reconnoitering

with literary friends, he longed to scratch an itch he could barely admit he had.

A lot of words are drained on McCourt's naïve expectations of American life. "I wanted to be doing something adult and significant," McCourt writes. "Dictating to my secretary, sitting with glamorous people at long mahogany boardroom tables, flying to con-



ventions, unwinding in trendy bears, slipping into bed with luscious women..."

Sadly, there are far too many passages like that. Fortunately for his students (not to mention his readers) McCourt is more original in his classroom. Where other teachers see forged excuse notes as inevitability, he finds a writing exercise in their creative absurdity. Soon his tyros are scribbling excuses for Adam and Eve and Al Capone as well as studying language in cookbooks.

At its worst, *Teacher Man* is repetitive and gratingly sentimental. At its best, we learn how a teacher's work is a day at the improv. A thankless job, an important job and an enriching profession that won't make you rich. It never totally satisfied McCourt, but that's probably because he was always a writer playing a teacher, playing an Irishman in America. — *John Dicker*

IN LIVING COLOR

Huerfano: A Memoir of Life in the Counterculture by Roberta Price. University of Massachusetts Press, 2004. Hardcover, \$29.95. One of *Foreward Magazine's* top ten university press books of the year.

Roberta Price's first experience of hippie communal life was as a grad student in the summer of 1969, when she and her partner David traveled around Colorado and New Mexico on a SUNY Buffalo grant to study the communes of the Southwest. By the time they returned to Buffalo after a second visit that winter, they knew they were hooked. The following summer, they packed up their 1947 Chrysler coupe and headed to Libre, an intentional community in the Huerfano Valley in the Southern Colorado Rockies.

Price's memoir is beautifully written, with attention to the ordinary details of life on the land — from milking goats, chopping wood and baking grass donuts to the endless and impossible task of building their house around a boulder on the side of a mountain.

Price includes the less glamorous aspects of communal life, such as applying for food stamps. "Think of it as a kind of NEA grant

to fund this important experiment in living," David rationalizes. She gives realistic accounts of drug use and the trials and rewards of open marriage. Color and black and white photographs help to document the times, the place and the colorful cast of characters living at the valley's several communes.

Libre was a loosely-knit collection of well-educated couples (you had to be a couple to join), who shared resources and land but lived in separate houses, domes and zomes. In a postlogue, Price tells us what many of these exceptional people are doing today.

The journal covers a seven-year period, from 1970-77, with reference to current events and the music, books and icons of the counterculture. It is an intellectually satisfying history, as well as an entertaining romp. By chronicling her own journey with candor and insight, she helps explain why so many educated, middle-class kids dropped out of mainstream America in the 1960s and '70s, and why that time of "unbridled possibilities" came to an end. In Price's delightful and highly readable memoir, we get an authentic look at the era. — *Sonja Snyder*

TAKING THE LEAP

The Commitment — love, sex, marriage and my family by Dan Savage. Penguin Group, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95.

After reading Dan Savage's weekly column "Savage Love" in *The Stranger* and laughing so hard my stomach hurt when I saw him speak in San Diego last fall, I had high expectations for *The Commitment*. Maybe too high.

I expected to laugh. And while the book has some laugh-out-loud moments, they were too few and too far between. Especially during the first half of the book, which slogs through a family vacation that's as interesting as wading through knee-deep quicksand.

If you're familiar with the debate surrounding gay marriage, *The Commitment* won't break any new ground, but it should be required reading for all those people who voted against it. Savage's family is so tradi-



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tional even right-wing conservatives would approve, as long as they don't know they're reading about a gay couple. He supports the family, while his partner is a live-at-home Dad who takes care of their 6-year-old son, DJ.

and the debates about marriage, matching tattoos and finally a 10-year anniversary party begin in earnest. Savage is at his best as he deconstructs commonly held beliefs, such as "our societal belief that a marriage is only

I expected to laugh.

And while the book has some laugh-out-loud moments, they were too few and too far between

Actually, the stories in which DJ is the central figure are the funniest. DJ opposes gay marriage, because he thinks boys can't marry boys and that it's icky. One particular scene in a motel in South Dakota involving diaper rash and DJ howling "Don't touch my butt, Daddy, my buttock hurts" is hysterical.

Things pick up significantly once they return home after the family get-together,

a success if it ends with one person dying." A pre-death parting, no matter how amicable or wise, is seen as a failed marriage.

Ultimately, *The Commitment* is entertaining. But the subject is too mundane to make it truly gripping. The debate about whether or not to get married is common, and the points of discussion so universal it feels like we've all heard it before. — *Melissa Bearns*

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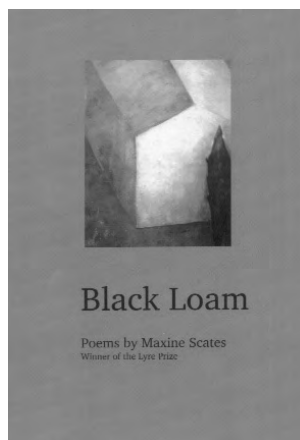
poetry

SOULMAKING

Black Loam by Maxine Scates. Cherry Grove Collections, 2005. Paperback. **Finalist: 2005 Oregon Book Award for Poetry.**

Maxine Scates' poems are personal, poignant recollections of lived family histories and hard-won moments when truth speaks clearly. Scates grounds her poems in the immediacy of the body and what it knows. I love the understated feelings in "Yellow Dog":

"and then in the woods
you closed your eyes,
is she gone? I looked up
the last day of August, leaves drifting
already, your head simply dropped
and we carried you, the ebbing warm weight,
the big paws I touched last."



My favorite poem, one which I've heard Scates read twice, is "The Mothers," a lengthy, layered work about the complexity of mother-daughter relationships — all that was, all that will never be — and the understanding "how if being born is forgetting, living a life is remembering all you've forgotten."

Cleaning "Mother's Closet" involves ambivalent feelings about what is left behind and what is taken away as well as the resonance of objects:

"I've found nothing I want but the purple mache mask
I made in the fourth grade. I like its yellow eyes.
She looks at each magazine I remove, saving
every word about my brother, the coach. He's sixty
and a long dead mouse has eaten the laces
of his baby shoes. I want order. I say
I'm old myself, I've started throwing things away.
I'm lying. I've kept everything she's ever given me."

Some poems in this collection are about wounding, healing and forgiving, coming into the light, as in the last verses of "Forgiveness":

"One spring on that road
I crossed the train tracks,
I saw how the weeds lay down in the heat,
how the wild roses
tangled with the blackberry vines.
I knew I had come to love the stand of oaks
whose shape I could see even late in the evening.

They rise through me some morning when I wake.
Rise through me
like the herons from the fields
With unencumbered grace."

The poet lives in Eugene among us with her husband Bill Cadbury, and frequently reads poems at Tsunami Books and other venues here and in Portland. May she long walk with unencumbered grace.

— Lois Wadsworth

WORLD TRAVELS

Surgeonfish by Ingrid Wendt. Word Tech Editions, 2005. Paperback, \$17.

Ingrid Wendt's new collection of poems includes those inspired by various travels to the American Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, the icy North of Europe, the sunny South of Europe, the Middle East and the banks of many rivers, lakes, gulfs and oceans of the world. Some of my favorites come from the trip with her husband, poet Ralph Salisbury, to Norway. Her themes range from regard for people and places to concern for the planet and questions of peace and war. She is a passionate poet, never more grounded and alive than in her poems of nature.

So here is a verse or two from an ecstatic poem about the Edenic beauty of the land of fjords and the Northern Lights, "Epithalamion From Norway":

"Friends,
how long have we thought of the Garden
as jungle? As warm?
Friends, I have dived in these waters:
cobalt blue of the fjord and a silent chorus of sei
iridescent
around me, patient
angels, watchful. Here
the future begins."

Wendt walks through the lands she visits. She requires the first-person experience of natural beauty. Here, at the Snake River, is her encounter with a "Porcupine at Dusk":

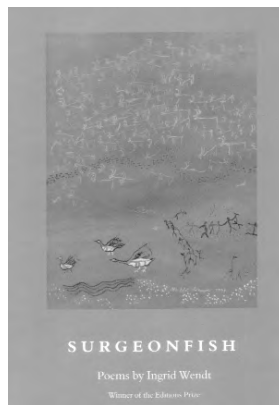
"Out of the bunch grass
out of the cheat grass
a bunch of grass waddles
my way.
Quill-tips bleached by winter four
inches down: crown of glory dark
at the roots: a halo
catching the sun's
final song"

And in romantic Italy, a November day spent walking through a town on Lake Como, where an old woman shopkeeper tells them about St. Martin, "the soldier who split his cape in two, for the beggar." From "St. Martin's Day, *Lago di Como*":

"blue light etching the air, each leaf on each olive
tree
silver and shining: grass on the hillside full to
bursting with green, gold, and the lake flat up
against
mountains: each atom of empty space tangible,
sharp as the bite into apples."

You can find this lovely book locally. I cannot imagine a lovelier gift for travelers of the world or for those of us who wish to see the world with a poet's eyes.

— Lois Wadsworth



SISTERHOOD

I Saw Us in a Painting by Sandy Jensen. Cover painting, *Magical Healing*, by Cheryl Long. Walking Bird Press, 2005. Paperback, \$7.98.

Teacher, poet and loving sibling, local poet Sandy Jensen, who lives in Eugene with her husband, poet Peter Jensen, collaborated with her sister, artist Cheryl Long, on the structure of this collection of poems. Each element from Long's cover painting — butterfly, dove, bone necklace, pomegranate, sliced mango and quilted star — contains one set of poems.

In "Song for My Father" (from Butterfly) the poet reaches past "mountains of memory" to the final passage:

"Under the murmur of trouble and thunder,
under wildfires' crackle and spark,
under the ground of roots and time,
his song of 'East Side, West Side,'
stills the nearing dark."

Jensen brings elegance to the quiet, moving picture of "Canoeist" (from Dove) at sunset:

"Canoe in timeless lift and glide parts
the lily-rooted reeds. Last sun
pours vermillion on the waters. Listen.
Out of silence the loon calls lovely,
lovely. Dip and swing of paddles. Arrow-
perfect bow slits the silver satin
of the lake."

And love for the sensual art of poetry itself inspires the poet to take us into the kitchen at "Berrytime" (from A Plate of Mango Slices):

"Your poems came in a hot season
when all I had to do was stand and pour
blackberry shade and black juice
into my gold glass jar.

When berrytime comes around
My tongue is alive with liquid heat:
Dappled shade of the harvest to words
Leaves my mouth purpled with longing."

And for her gal pal, Kat Chinn, and the many meals they have shared together, Sandy writes another food poem, "Yellow Curry"

"The world is like this: a bowl of yellow curry,
hot and strange, swimming
with tasty creatures of sea and land.
We eat them up in coconut milk and broth,
Slurping noodles, smearing lips,
Tongues, and tall tales
With tiger turmeric.
Like candlelight the curry gently burns
All the way down to darkness."

An imaginative, Northwest poet of the tangible and intangible pleasures of life, Sandy Jensen offers readers meaningful glimpses from her keen observations of the natural world and her inner thoughts. — Lois Wadsworth



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fiction

AS REAL AS IT GETS

Ordinary Wolves by Seth Kantner. Milkweed Editions, 2004. Paperback, \$14.95. **2004 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award. Milkweed National Fiction Prize. Kantner: One of 10 awarded 2005 Whiting Prize.**

It's January 1976, and national attention is fixed on the end of the Vietnam War and the last act of the drama surrounding the Watergate cover-up. But this winter day, 10-year-old Cutuk Hawcly has more immediate concerns. His dad, Abe, has taken the sled team back to their sod house to pick up a geepole so they can haul back the moose he shot during the day's hunt. Cutuk's been left to watch over the still-warm carcass. Night is falling, and beneath a sky laced with pink and green aurora, the Arctic cold is merciless. Outside Cutuk's lonely circle of firelight, the night is inky black. He hears a shriek, then a burst of soft thumps. The deep black morphs into shapes with glistening eyes. Wolves. He reaches for the rifle his father has left him.

Down-state boys his own age would likely be rigid with fear. Cutuk has one thought: Would this be the time he shoots his first wolf?

Ordinary Wolves, Kantner's debut novel, is an engrossing tale of a young boy growing up on the Arctic tundra in a family that not only lives off the land but also lives in it, in a sod hut many miles from the closest Eskimo village. Narrated from Cutuk's point of view, the book follows him on his forays with his dog team out into the tundra, then on his painful trips into town, where his fumbling tongue and white skin shame him into silence.

The people, places and incidents in the book are fictitious, but the descriptions of the land, the family's way of life and the criss-cross of generosity, racism and harshness in the Eskimo culture are too finely drawn to be imagined. Every page glistens with descriptions so real you can almost hear the crunch of mukluks on packed snow or smell the steaming gut pile from a recent kill.

On a recent book tour stop in Eugene, Kantner, who lives in a small town in north-west Alaska with his wife and daughter, said the book "follows the arc" of his own life, from growing up on the tundra to his mind-bending journey into city life as a young man. Kantner's father, originally from Ohio, moved to Alaska and befriended an elder Eskimo couple who taught him many of the old ways of living on the land. Kantner's parents eschewed the popular notion of career success as well as such amenities as electricity, plumbing and social intercourse.

Like Cutuk, Kantner grew up eating caribou and pemmican made with currants, dried cranberries and caribou fat. He spent hours catching and preparing fish to be made into dog food for the family's sled team. His first friends were dogs.

Also like Cutuk, Kantner spent years feeling deep shame for being white. "I'm 40, and I'm just getting over a lifetime of wanting to be Eskimo," he said. But his yearning did not keep him from writing about the racism he experienced or the destabilizing effects of modern technology such as snow-mobiles and television on the centuries-old Eskimo culture.

Sprinkled with words from the Iñupiat language, *Ordinary Wolves* includes a glossary. When Kantner reads words spoken by his Eskimo characters, the cadence says it all. He's been there, and he's listened closely.

One of the "old ways" Cutuk picks up early on is that true hunters don't boast about their skills or kills. Kantner follows suit. He describes himself as "jumble-brained and dyslexic" and perennially restless. He doesn't like to sit still or write. He doesn't

even like to be indoors. He has a degree in journalism but says he fell into fiction writing almost by accident when a teacher gave him the right encouragement at the right time.

When an audience member at his reading commented on his poetic descriptions, Kantner responded that his craft seems polished only because publishers kept turning down his book, so

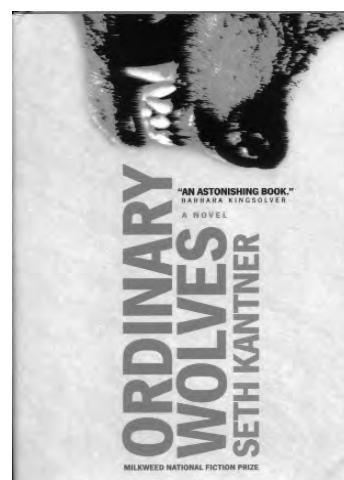
he had several years to re-write and hone each sentence. Maybe. But Kantner not only writes great description and supremely believable inner reflection, but he also has a way with metaphors.

"A discussion with [Abe] was like rolling a log uphill in sticky snow. Ideas glommed on." Or "his brown eyes looked rolled back like a village dog held down by its last six inches of iced-in chain." Some folks could do re-writes for a lifetime and never hit those perfect chords.

Kantner said he's not sure he's ready to sit down to another novel. Like his parents, he's suspect of the standard definition of success and doesn't feel the need to make a lot of money. He'd like more time for sled-making and photography. Carpal tunnel syndrome gives him an out for spending a lot of time at a keyboard right now. "I was actually thinking about making knives," he said.

It is a sweet relief to know the author is as real as this marvelous book.

— Alice Tallmadge



THE RELIABLE NARRATOR

War Trash by Ha Jin. Pantheon Books, 2004; hardcover, \$25. Vintage International, 2005; paperback, \$14.95. **Pulitzer Prize finalist. Winner Pen/Faulkner Award, 2005.**

Yu Yuan, the observant narrator of Ha Jin's incisive novel, is a Chinese clerical officer in Mao's so-called volunteer army selected to fight alongside North Korean troops against the Americans in the Korean

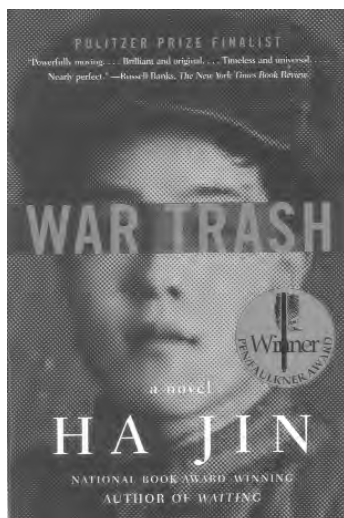
War, 1951. Yuan, with no military training to speak of, is advised by his commanding officer, Commissar Pei, to bring along with him an English-Chinese dictionary to "serve as a unique weapon." Yuan describes Pei: "He was a tall man of thirty-two, with a bronzed face and a receding hair-line. Whenever I was with him, I could feel the inner strength of this man, who had been a dedicated revolutionary since his early teens."

Yuan is not a revolutionary. Apolitical, he wisely keeps to himself. He's worried about his old mother, alone now, and he misses his fiancée. The soldiers attend compulsory meetings designed to drum up war fever. Here's Yuan's partial description of the 800-man Chinese army gingerly crossing a bridge over the Yalu River into Korea:

"Each man kept ten feet from the one in front of him. The water below was dark, hissing and plunging. Now and then someone would cry out, his foot having fallen through a hole. A tall mule, drawing a cart, got its hind leg stuck in a rift and couldn't dislodge it no matter how madly the driver thrashed its hindquarters. The moment I passed the tilted cart, it shook, then keeled over and fell into the river together with the helpless animal. There was a great splash, followed by an elongated whirlpool in the shimmering current, and then the entire load of medical supplies vanished."

I cite this at such length because it is the perfect metaphor for the entire war from Yuan's educated viewpoint. They are the "war trash" left on their own by the Chinese government without weapons, food, medicine or reinforcements; lost in the dark rivers of a foreign land.

An American offensive in the air and on the ground quickly engages the troops in battle. Pei tries to save his footsore, hungry men, but many are overrun. Yuan, Pei and a few others get away but soon come upon 300 injured, sick and starving men abandoned by their officers. Later with 80 survivors, Yuan and Pei fight like guerillas for three months before they are captured and sent to POW camps.



Now begins Yuan's true story, told as a memoir. At the mercy of various inscrutable Chinese factions within the camps, Yuan proves useful as a translator in negotiations with their captors. A compelling story of daily life under hardship, Ha Jin's greatest accomplishment is Yu Yuan, the reliable narrator, a memorable, civilized man I will never forget. Ha Jin teaches English at Boston University and won

the National Book Award for his first novel, *Waiting*. Sublime. — Lois Wadsworth

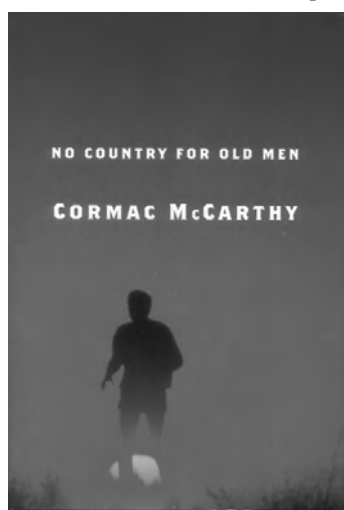
NO MAN'S LAND

No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy. Knopf, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95. **A New York Times Notable Book of the Year 2005.**

Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men* is set farther into modernity than his previous works, yet the urges driving the men who careen through his new novel are as primal as those possessed by the cowboys, killers and prophets who populate his other novels of the West. The premise is familiar: A man comes upon something that is not his and takes it against his better judgment, then spends the rest of the story running from parties unwilling to brook the loss.

Here, the man is Llewelyn Moss, and what's not his is \$2 million left unattended in the desert as the result of a mutually fatal shootout between parties to a heroin deal. Unattended, but not forgotten. Setting the story in motion, Moss returns to the scene, an obstinate act that fulfills the dictates of a code he follows despite knowing it could destroy him.

McCarthy's prose is as spare as the Texas landscape through which Moss flees, making *No Country for Old Men* a departure from the



Faulknerian style of previous work. The style matches the story, though, and McCarthy's gifts are manifest in his ability to co-opt crime novel formulas to his grand purpose: the philosophical exploration of our relationship with violence.

A frenetic dream of men and guns, the book sketches the latter more tenderly than the former. Yet this new novel is neither a continuation of McCarthy's Plains Trilogy nor a return to the full fury of *Blood Meridian*. Instead, it is an impeccably crafted genre novel. With McCarthy's singular gifts, the book's pure enjoyment illustrates that even the barest of plots flourish in the proper hands. — Chris Ledford

EMERALD CITY

Son of a Witch by Gregory Maguire. ReganBooks, HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$26.95.

When the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba Thropp, met her inevitable end in Gregory Maguire's *Wicked*, few readers thought much, if anything, of the boy who'd tagged along with her to her castle. But lonely, picked-on Liir becomes the subject in this sequel, which meanders through memory and history to answer some pressing questions: Is Liir really the Witch's son? What does that mean? And how did he come to be lying in the grasslands, nearly every bone in his body broken?

While Liir lies in a coma, the story runs with his unconscious thoughts through his life since Elphaba's death. With the Witch's broom and cape in hand, Liir leaves the castle with Dorothy and her troupe, but they melt away in the Emerald City. After trying to find his possible half-sister, Nor, Liir joins the Emerald City's military, for what else is a penniless orphan to do?

Military life at first suits Liir, who grows to value his unremarkableness. Determined to be talentless and bland and not to claim his possible

birthright, he nevertheless can't ignore the unpleasant responsibility that comes his way. Shaken, Liir deserts the army, only to be swept up in greater events that bring out the passion in the steely young man.

Liir's is a tale of reluctant self-discovery, as introspective as it is adventurous — even once he's woken from his coma by the strange gifts of the novice nun, Candle. On first read, it's clear that the book isn't quite on par with the delicious ingenuity of *Wicked*, but it is still a sleepy, enticing tale with striking, memorable characters and an ending that suggests it is not the end of the story. But we readers are not the only ones who miss the sharp-tongued presence of the Witch herself. On the walls and in the very air above the Emerald City, a heartfelt, rebellious slogan lingers: "Elphaba lives!"

— Molly Templeton

FREUDIAN SLAPSTICK

Mr. Muo's Travelling Couch by Dai Sijie. Knopf, 2005. Hardcover, \$22.

His novel is a quixotic search for truth, justice and the Asian way; a theatric of the absurd played out in desperate alleys and ramshackle bus stations across the Land of the Grinning Dragon; and a flash of whimsical realism that would startle and bemuse shamans from Copper Canyon to Kamchatka.

Mr. Muo studied psychoanalysis in Paris and has just returned to 21st century China to introduce his people to the wonders of Western shrinkdom. He also plans to liberate his college sweetheart, a political prisoner jailed for publishing photographs documenting government torture. The judge who sentenced Muo's daring darling explains that he'll spring her if provided with a nubile virgin for his own delights. Thus begins Muo's chivalric if ludicrous quest to fulfill his part of this devil's bargain.

Dai Sijie, author of the best-selling novel now a movie, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, takes Muo into a creepy mortuary operated by a strangely compelling woman who helps him lose his virginity over a wild mountaintop road where fierce, acrobatic bandits leap on passing trucks, through a panda habitat overseen by a mystic healer who collects panda scat for a living, and into



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the vile depths of the sadistic magistrate's monster lair. Eventually, our hero achieves a vaguely satisfying epiphany, the possibility of sweet closure and the beginning of the greening of Mr. Muo.

Describing his character's postponed loss of innocence, Dai Sijie writes, "Muo's first copulation, which proceeds in textbook fashion, is in danger of turning into a doctoral thesis."

Imagine sly Vladimir Nabokov, droll Lewis Carroll and indefatigable Miguel Cervantes beaming at the arrival of their new colleague. Born in China, Dai Sijie has lived and worked in France since 1984.

— David Johnson

his publisher, you will note the razor-sharp wit of the 78-year old writer we so admire:

"He had the notable vice of a smart appearance. He had just turned twenty-nine and knew four languages and had three international master's degrees, unlike the first president-for-life, his paternal grandfather, who became an empirical journalist after making a fortune as a white slaver."

This tightly-woven novella (113 small pages) is resplendent and deserving of a careful reading. It is arguably a masterpiece. But if not, it's simply one more illuminating work by one of the world's great writers, nothing more. — Lois Wadsworth

LIVELY METAPHOR

Memories of My Melancholy Whores by Gabriel García Márquez. Translated by Edith Grossman. Knopf, 2005. Hardcover, \$20. **A New York Times Notable Book of the Year 2005.**

Since I discovered the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Colombian-born Gabriel García Márquez in the early 1970s, I have longed to express in print my feelings about this remarkable writer, who is credited with creating a style enraptured critics called "magical realism." Although I have read many of his novels and found them compelling, I have not yet finished his astonishing memoir, *Living to Tell the Tale* (Knopf, 2003). In the first of three projected volumes, García Márquez makes clear how his life has influenced his work, particularly his fictions.

Memories of My Melancholy Whores seems to me to be a highly sophisticated metaphor for the riches and sorrows of a writer acknowledging the muse(s) who have attended his work. I offer in evidence a quote attributed to Julius Caesar, which appears in a late chapter: "In the end, it is impossible not to become what others believe you are."

An unnamed journalist and lifelong bachelor in a large city comes to his 90th birthday with one wish: to experience one night of love with an adolescent virgin. Now this proposition even surprises the madam who has long serviced his needs with a variety of women. Nevertheless, she secures a young woman, and the night of love arrives. The night turns into a year, but consummation never arrives. Instead, the old man finds himself for the first time deeply in love, not only with the girl who sleeps through their nights together, but with all those who came before her.

Like the second word in "magical realism," which is often ignored, the tale is rooted in a reality that includes an old house that's falling apart and our hero's interactions with his newspaper. In this brief portrait of

O HOLY URINE SAMPLES

An Idiot Girl's Christmas: True Tales from the Top of the Naughty List by Laurie Notaro. Villard Books, 2005. Hardcover, \$14.95.

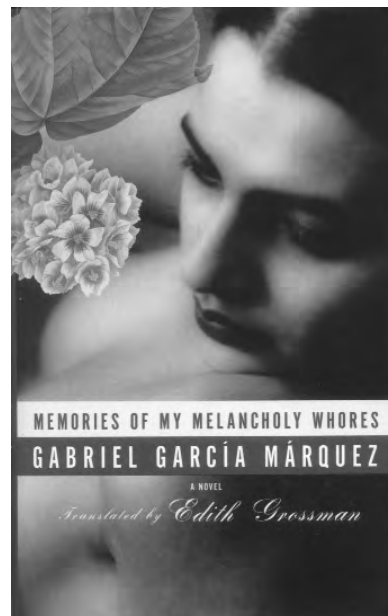
Every year, as the holidays approach, my stomach slowly twists into garland-like knots as I ponder what predicaments God feels I can handle. I suffer through visions of drunken arguments, judgmental looks from family members, an extreme case of road rage and the intense fear of braving the mall. Luckily this year, before the annual madness set in, an antidotal handbook fell into my needy hands. *An Idiot Girl's Christmas* is just what the doctor, or shall I say Ol' St. Nick, ordered. *The New York Times* best-selling local author of *The Idiot Girl's Action-Adventure Club*, Laurie Notaro, blesses us this season with 12 hilarious tales of holiday woe.

"Have Yourself a Kmart Little Christmas" is Notaro's Christmas Eve recounting of a lengthy mission of tracking down an open store in search of much-needed personal hygiene supplies. Not only does Notaro have to navigate aisles of blue light specials, "artificially colored ham sandwiches," baby poop and lesion-ridden drug addicts, but she also manages to plop herself in line in front of

a murder of teenage boys, who refer to her as "Peppermint Fatty."

In "There's a Gun Somewhere Under the Tree," Notaro plants the reader in the middle of her first Christmas with her soon-to-be in-laws. Adorned in multi-colored hair, a leather jacket and cowboy boots, the author struggles to fit in, resulting in a man receiving a nursing bra and a 3-year-old tearing open his very own Leathermans tool.

Whether handing out urine samples or gracefully accepting half-used bath gel as a holiday gift, Notaro entertains and comforts any winter-weary soul. Each tale in *An Idiot Girl's Christmas* is short and sweet, perfect for quick reads in between making egg nog for 20 or wrapping your family's guns and knives. — Danica Stiles



SISTERS OF THE HEART

The Secrets of Jin-shei by Alma Alexander.
HarperSan Francisco, 2004. Hardcover, \$24.95.

The *Secrets of Jin-shei* would be terrific even if it didn't have roots in Chinese history, but, by basing her novel on a real language and a custom of sworn sisterhood associated with it, Alma Alexander has brought something little-known and profound to readers' attention. Her novel is a great achievement.

In the book's historical note, the author explains that the language we think of as Chinese is actually a complex web of more than 500 dialects, among which is a secret written language passed from mother to daughter for more than 500 years. Such rich history brings alive the world Alexander has created.

Tai is the founder of the circle around which the novel centers. Nine years old as the story begins and a grandmother as it comes to its conclusion, Tai possesses a capacity for happiness that inspires all those around her, including a warrior, scholar, dancer, sage, philanthropist, healer and empress.

A city with market, temple and palace in a land of mountains, lakes and changing seasons exists beyond the circle of women surrounding Tai. The denizens of this country and their faith, customs and struggles can be found in all these places.

The novel's greatest strength is in metic-

ulous details such as the "hideous little effigy" of a mysterious lesser deity whose "altar was always overflowing with offerings," yet no one has ever been observed actually placing anything on the altar.

The book is also relentlessly realistic. Some wonderful characters meet dreadful ends and some mysteriously disappear, while others change for the better. Looking back, Tai remembers the sisters of her heart and marvels, "Oh, how rich my life was with all of you beside me." Readers' lives, too, will be enriched. — *Josephine Bridges*

GRIEF & REDEMPTION

The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich, HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$25.95. **A New York Times Notable Book of the Year 2005.**

I reviewed for *Eugene Weekly* Louise Erdrich's first novel, *Love Medicine* (5/16/85), and her second, *Beet Queen* (1/15/87). I've read many of the subsequent eight novels, which include her best-seller, *The Master Butcher's Singing Club*. It is a real pleasure to review Erdrich's latest, *The Painted Drum*.

The book begins with a conflicted romance

between a sculptor and a woman, Faye Travers, who works with her part-Ojibwe mother appraising estates in New Hampshire. Travers is asked to look at the estate of a former Indian agent, where she discovers a hidden cache of treasures, including a painted drum she immediately recognizes as a rare ritual instrument. The drum head is three feet across, and she imagines the buffalo or moose skinned for it was a giant.

"[the drum] is intricately decorated, with a beaded belt and skirt, hung with tassels of pulled red yarn and sewn tightly all around with small tin cones, or tinklers. Four broad tabs are spaced equally around the top. Into their beaded tongues of deep indigo four white beaded figures are set. They are abstract but seem to represent a girl, a hand, a cross, a running wolf. On the face of the drum, at the very center, a stripe is painted in yellow. That is all."

The novel follows Travers' stormy relationship with Kurt Krahe, his rebellious daughter, Kendra, a neighbor called Davan Eyke, and Faye's mother, Elsie. Elsie has told Faye that the drum is the universe, a living thing, which must be fed and always covered with a quilt. "No two are alike, but every drum is related to every other drum. They

speak to one another and they give their songs to humans," Elsie says.

Later, Faye and Elsie take the drum to its home on the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. There the storyteller becomes Bernard Shaawano, whose grandfather made the drum. The parallels between Travers' life and that of the drummer become evident as Bernard's story unfolds. A compassionate, forgiving history. — *Lois Wadsworth*

CHALLENGING TRADITION

Bodies in Motion short stories by Mary Anne Mohanraj. HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$22.95.

Mary Anne Mohanraj's rich debut collection, *Bodies in Motion*, shadows two Sri Lankan families over multiple generations, exposing their challenges, changes, triumphs and failures as each character struggles to make their way. Described in 20 stories spanning 63 years and told through a multitude of voices, the book takes the reader on a journey with characters who bravely step outside tradition to paint their family portrait.

The desperate story of Thani in "Oceans Bright and Wide" addresses this man's loveless marriage, his compensatory relationship with a nun and his frustrations parenting five teenage daughters. I like the author's use of a vulnerable male character in a largely male-dominated society.



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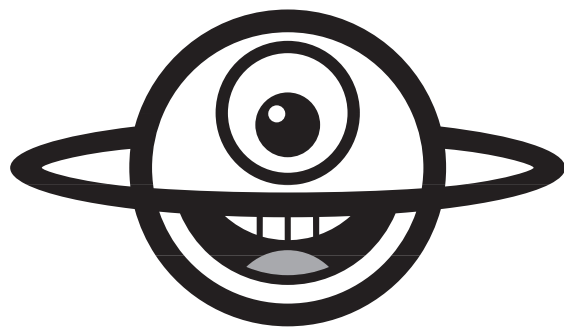


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"Seven Cups of Water" explores a young woman's brief sexual freedom, described in passionate encounters with her sister-in-law, before she settles into an arranged marriage. Though their relationship is brief, these characters possess immense bravery.

"Mint in Your Throat" is a painfully honest tale by a student who persuades her rapist she is a prostitute. Even though she tries to outsmart him, she ends up being humiliated. This story left me with chills.

The ambitious Kandiah and Vallipuram families move across continents in hope of education and success, reach across marriage beds to reluctantly receive arranged spouses, and trade stereotypes between Eastern and Western cultures. The importance of religion, tradition, education and family is explored whether on the dirt floors of a sweltering and politically turbulent Sri Lanka or in the financially secure but culturally pressured comfort of an American home.

Mohanraj challenges traditional Sri Lankan culture, where the vibrant and resilient female characters wrapped in brightly colored saris serve as the fabric of *Bodies in Motion*, while the men are the gold thread running through it. These stories will leave you with tamarind lingering on your taste buds, the smell of Bougainvillea on your hands and the challenge of breaking free weighing in your heart. — Danica Stiles

CRIMINAL PURSUITS

How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship and Musical Theater by Marc Acito. Broadway Books, 2005. Paperback, \$9.95. Winner of the 2005 Oregon Book Award for the Novel.

To be fair, there's not quite as much musical theater as there is sex, theft and friendship in Marc Acito's first novel.

There is enough, though, to give the book something of a campy feel, especially when combined with the kooky, teen-movie style episodes of theft and sex, complete with parental interruption and incriminating photos of naked jocks.

Seventeen-year old Edward Zanni is a theater geek about to start his senior year of high school. He's dead set on going to Julliard. Acting is his calling, his reason for being, and, naturally, something his business-minded father — an almost cartoonish Jersey goon — is equally dead set against. He simply refuses to pay for college unless Edward goes to business school.

Thus the scheming begins: blackmail, embezzlement, identity theft and more. Edward's assisted by his former girlfriend, Kelly, his best friend, Paula, and Kelly's new boyfriend, Doug, who's also the subject of Edward's blooming crush. They're joined by cosmopolitan Ziba and Natie, the nerdy-smart kid across the street, who comes up with the best plots for the illicit acquisition of cash.

Acito's voice is clear and cheerily irreverent, and his plotting perfectly screwball, but

somehow Edward's story never lands in laugh-out-loud territory. If over-the-top hijinks are your thing, you'll likely disagree. The story's coming-of-age and coming-out threads are deftly handled. But Acito has a distracting tendency to begin chapters by an anecdote about a character, followed by a paragraph that's simply the character's name, as if the incident defined the person. Hard to explain, and a little hard to swallow.

Still, Edward's pitch-perfect teenage attitude and frank approach to sex are likely to appeal not just to adults, for whom the book is intended, but also teens, who may find Edward and company with their "Creative Vandalism" and outlandish garb kindred souls. — Molly Templeton

MAGICAL REALISM

The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea. Little, Brown and Company, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95.

You can judge a book by its cover. I thought about buying *The Hummingbird's Daughter* because of a review, but after one look at the cover art I had to have it. The book became my fond companion immediately, and over several weeks a little touch of magical realism colored how I looked at the world.

Luis Alberto Urrea lovingly depicts life on a Sinaloa ranch around the turn of the 20th century, and the birth there of Teresita, a most amazing girl and his actual ancestor. Born of an Indian mother, fathered by the wealthy landlord, Don Tomás Urrea, and midwifed by the resident healer, Huila, Teresita's home is a hovel on the ranch. Her mother abandons her, yet she grows into an uncommon girl and again attracts the attention of Don Tomás's

privileged servant, Huila, who makes Teresita her protégé. The girl comes to live in the big house where a surprised Don Tomás recognizes her as his daughter.

All around the remote hacienda, the Mexican Revolution is fomenting. Targeted by the corrupt Mexican government, the beloved people of Teresita, Los Indios, are the first besides Huila to discover the girl's healing abilities. Like wildfire, she

becomes an icon of the revolution, which puts her entire household and especially her dear father, Don Tomás, in jeopardy.

This exciting, beautifully drawn adventure story never failed to enchant me. Urrea's magnificent grasp of the realities of Mexican life in all its tragic complexity is rendered in deliriously passionate language. Teresita, in crisis, rises at dawn and goes outside:

"She avoided Huila's sacred grove of cottonwoods and found a small holy spot of her own. She prayed, though she was unworthy of God's ear. She waited until hummingbirds began their rounds, and she told them of her sorrows. They buzzed and rang around her



head, hummed and sang their songs, songs too fast for any human ear to hear, songs that came to her like sharp kisses in the wind."

The author's note begins: "Teresa Urrea was a real person." Urrea's great grandfather was Tomás's first cousin. Teresa's sermons are based on notes taken by the journalist Lauro Aguirre and saved on microfilm, available "if you know a helpful librarian." Urrea writes that the book took more than 20 years "of fieldwork, research, travel and interviews." He is the author of *The Devil's Highway* (2004 Lannan Literary Award winner for nonfiction), a poet, novelist and the winner of numerous awards. If *Hummingbird* is your introduction to this gifted writer, be glad you've found him.

— Lois Wadsworth

SOULFUL HOUSE

Set This House in Order: A Romance of Souls by Matt Ruff. HarperCollins, 2003. Paperback, \$14.95. A New York Times Notable Book, 2003.

Matt Ruff is a self-described obsessive-personality. His novel is an intricately constructed tale of Andy Gage, a man with multiple personalities. *Set This House In Order* carries the reader through Andy's medicated fogs, alternating between sudden periods of "lost time," semi-stability and his valiant attempt to bring order to his multiple selves.

The story is set in a dreary Washington town where Andy has built an odd but controlled life for himself. Andy works for a virtual reality software company, and ultimately he discovers his own life to be in a permanent state of virtual reality.

With a little help, Andy has kept his mind (or house) running relatively smoothly. The personalities who share control of his body may be women or men, an artist or a black belt, a hormone-driven teenager or a young child. Each personality understands that the mental health of the body depends on their collective cooperation. At first this idea made my head spin, but by the end of the novel

Ruff has persuaded me of this technique for treating multiple personality disorder is effective.

All is well until Andy's boss convinces him to help another person with MPD sort through and organize her own house. In the process of understanding Penny's many souls, Andy's carefully built construction crumbles, exposing unknown facets of his disorder. I appreciate the novel's exploration of the unique purposes of the many personalities of Andy and Penny's bodies.

In this third novel, Ruff entertains and educates by deconstructing painful childhoods and exploring several theories about MPD. The characters' challenges to be normal left me more compassionate and understanding for people often simply labeled "mentally disturbed." — Danica Stiles

crime fiction

VAMPIRE KILLER

Hellsing by Kohta Hirano. Dark Horse Manga. Paperback, \$13.95

Manga — Japanese comic books, right? Family: Art. Genus: Manga. Species: Sundry.

Some say it's not Art. Disregard this sphincter-constricted viewpoint. Manga, in its native habitat, is sought by all — young and old, cops, salarymen and housewives. Yes, verified adults read manga. While in America manga's not embraced at that level, it has nonetheless achieved a place in our culture. Walk into any mainstream corporate

book vendor. Behold the wall, the section, and the pack of mangaphiles circling rows of slim volumes dressed endlessly pleasing by its hardworking artists. No genre or subject goes untouched.

To introduce the creature, take *Hellsing*, Kohta Hirano's serialized tale of a clandestine English organization that defends Queen and country from the undead freaks of the world.

The Hellsing organization's chief weapon against the undead came up from the basement in the form of barely tamed, supremely enhanced vampire Alucard. This vampire derives joy of employment in boring .454 Cassul rounds through freak flesh. Dark, bloody and, oh, just a tweege gothy, *Hellsing* dances along razor edges with witty dialogue, black humor, bold artwork and a supporting cast of characters every bit as quirked as Alucard. — Jenn Bazurto



QUIRKY CHARACTERS

With No One as Witness by Elizabeth George. HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$26.95.

Prepare for a marathon reading weekend when you start Elizabeth George's latest crime story. That's what I did, even though sometimes I am reluctant to take on a thriller because they disturb me too much. Believe me, this one is disturbing.

The great thing about George's storytelling is the quirkiness of her characters. They are frustrating, irritating and lonely. Rarely does anyone appear entirely happy; just like real life. And like real life, they muddle through their life choices, even though those choices may not be so great.

George leads us through a number of layers, each interacting with the other. Set in London, the novel chronicles New Scotland Yard's search for a serial killer of 12- and 13-year-old boys. Done in a ritualistic manner, the killings fall under the jurisdiction of both Scotland Yard and the city's homicide department, and bumbling politics involve all. The NSY team includes Barbara, the titled supervisor; Detective Lynley; and Winston Nkaka, a token black man the big honchos trot out after publicity of the first three murders, which involved black or mixed-race boys, is largely swept under the rug. But when a white boy is killed, racism rears its ugly head and the PR people begin to panic.

The big wigs want a quick solution and decide to allow the press access to the crime team. Terrible consequences arise from that decision. George's descriptions of the London shops, neighborhoods, parks and vicinity put the reader smack in the middle of the scene. In the end, the characters are very human. — Geneva Miller

NASHVILLE

Blood of Angels by Reed Arvin. HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$16.95.

As I review this novel that delves into racial tension in Nashville, Tennessee, across the Atlantic, France is on fire. Art and life imitate each other, often with lethal realities.

Blood of Angels, a tale of an assistant district attorney challenged by a different version of the past and edgy about a disquieting future, is a timely example.

Those who avoid legal-beagle fiction by John Grisham and Portland's Philip Margolin or dodge the second half of TV's "Law and Order" when it shifts from the gritty streets to an overheated courtroom are now thinking: "I'll pass."

But I'd like to plead that this well-crafted, action-packed thriller spends little time in

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court. Our protagonist, Thomas Dennehy, has a good track record as a prosecutor. He also has a lovely daughter named Jasmine he sees on weekends and a bottle of Zoloft — little blue pills that keep him psychically above water.

And then Dennehy learns that someone claims he sent the wrong man to the death chamber. And there's his current problem with the prosecution of Moses Bol, a Sudanese refugee accused of murdering a white woman in the Nations, a militant enclave rife with racial hatred.

Dennehy grapples with these developments as Nashville smolders. He meets the Reverend Fiona, a fiery anti-death penalty advocate and intriguing beauty who claims she was with Bol at the time of the homicide, thus providing the accused with a handy alibi.

Page after page, our hero struggles to uncover the truth, confront his feelings for Fiona and stay out of harm's way. I rest my case.

Arvin grew up on a Kansas cattle ranch and was a music producer in Nashville, where he now lives and writes full-time.

— Dave Johnson

istically won't talk about it. The local sheriff wants construction to continue at the site and sweeps aside Jake's assertions of foul play. But Manny and Jake will stop at nothing to uncover the bones' deadly secret.

— Vanessa Salvia

TWO HISTORIES

The Stranger House by Reginald Hill.
HarperCollins, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95.

Reginald Hill, known primarily for his Dalziel and Pascoe police procedurals, ventures into different territory with his new novel, *The Stranger House*, a mystery that is part detective story and part secret history of the seemingly quiet English town of Illthwaite. The story involves Australian mathematics student, Samantha (Sam) Flood, and Spanish seminarian Miguel (Mig) Madero. Sam and Mig join forces after finding their individual searches into Illthwaite's history intersect. Each seeks to answer a family mystery, but the rocks they overturn reveal unsuspected secrets.

Hill's writing often does not seem up to the task of conveying the atmosphere of suspicion and secrecy he seeks to conjure, especially mysteries that span four centuries. Still, there is undoubtedly a large demand for detective fiction where deep historical secrets are revealed, notably when an element of religion is mixed in, as in the freight train that is *The Da Vinci Code*.

While not an entirely satisfying historical mystery, *The Stranger House* has enough twists and turns to please lovers of the genre and also make for a quick and pleasant read.

— Chris Ledford



BONES NEVER LIE

Remains Silent by Michael Baden and Linda Kenney. Knopf, 2005. Hardcover, \$23.95.

I almost didn't read this after scanning the dust cover, which describes the two main characters. Philomena "Manny" Manfreda is a New York City civil rights attorney and "unabashed shopaholic" who wouldn't be caught dead in anything but Chanel or Prada. A fashion victim who carries her poodle everywhere, Manny's character seemed laughable. However, 10 minutes into the book, I was hooked.

Manny bristles at any semblance of injustice and has acquired a reputation as a fierce defender of the disenfranchised. She is prosecuting a high-profile case when she calls Dr. Jake Rosen, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, to the stands. He crucifies the prosecution's testimony. Manny can't stand the thought of him.

But soon after, bones are uncovered at the construction site of a shopping mall. When one set of bones is identified, Jake recommends Manny to represent the family of the deceased. Manny and Jake quickly become entangled in a decades-old cover up involving a former mental hospital. The body count rises. Jake and Manny develop a relationship, enhanced by a first "date" at an autopsy. Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge of crime scenes, Jake explains the difference between coughed-up blood and blood splatters from a cut. And that there's always a disturbance in the soil when a body is buried, no matter how many years have passed.

But the unearthed bones share a tragic abnormality that even Jake's trained eye can't see. Retired medical examiner Dr. Pete Harrigan knows something but uncharacter-

general nonfiction

MOVING FORWARD

How To Rent a Negro by damali ayo. Lawrence Hill Books, 2005. Paperback, \$14.95.

Lunching with friends, you look around and realize that something about the gathering seems particularly pale. You examine your companions: white, white, white, and ... white! Could it be true? Is everybody you know white?

Or is this you: you get constant invitations from friends trying to liven up their social events by adding some local color. You answer so many questions about being black that you're exhausted at the end of the day.

damali ayo, author of *How to Rent a Negro*, offers a solution designed for everyone. Since slavery is illegal, renting can get you the services you need or the compensation you deserve. If you're white, you can get your questions answered, show your friends and colleagues how you're "down with diversity" and always have a well-mannered, articulate black person available for

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A Portland-based conceptual and performance artist, ayo frequently incorporates social critique into her work. She invites her audience to step out of their comfort zone and engage in dialogue about why race is still such a wrenching issue in our country. Past exhibits include panhandling for reparations and creation of the rent-a-negro.com website that preceded the book.

In ayo's words: "Due to ... exhausting out-put of education to white people, and taking large amounts of racism and racial ignorance into my system on a daily basis, I called 'who else,' my mom. She and I talked for a long while about the exhaustion and how I wasn't getting payback from the interactions I was having, yet I felt obligated to attend certain events... I wasn't getting networking (or even entertainment) out of these experiences. Mom's response: 'Well, sure, you can't just be everyone's rent-a-negro.'

"This made me relax. I decided I could stick it out with the several white people in my life and continue to assist them on their paths of learning ... but that everyone else would be put on a fee-for-services basis ... for me this was a mindset. But as the concept sat in my mind for a while, it naturally evolved into art ... it's sparked some great discussions, which is the whole point of my work in general: dialogue."

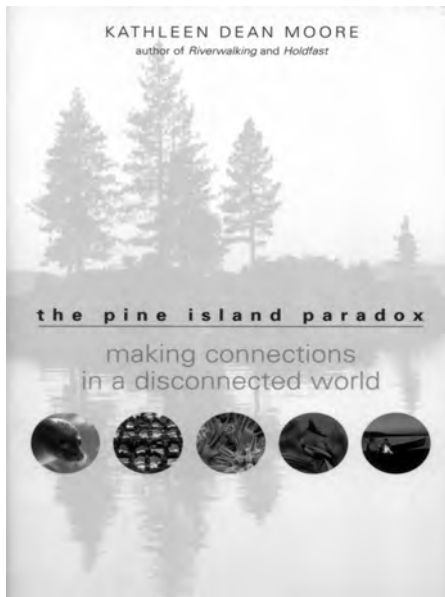
Ayo challenges white people to read the book and not see themselves in at least a small part. She described favorite moments during her book tour that involved white people interacting, cutting her off, declaring, "This (racism) is for us to work on."

I asked ayo what she hoped people would take away with them after reading her book.

"Mostly questions about themselves," she replied. "The sense of where they see themselves in the book and what they want to do about that. It does posit the idea that an individual can make a difference. It's up to us how long this continues ... any market

depends on the consumer, so if people want to keep doing it, it's going to keep happening."

During ayo's book tour, according to a reviewer on Amazon.com, "people interacted, talked, hugged, laughed, cried, squirmed and searched out the issue of race together in the same small book-stores and city streets ... people actually got upset in public about it. That is moving this society forward." — Mary Meredith Drew



takes us deeply into the howl of a wolf, explaining how, in music, the first two mournful notes of a wolf howl are known as an augmented fourth, a sound that for centuries has been used by composers to express bottomless longing. In medieval Europe, she writes, the sound was considered the "diabolus in musica," the devil's chord, "so powerful it could grab a parishioner, drag him to his knees and pull him, scraping on the

paving stones, straight to hell."

And there are the more biology-based factoids, sometimes provided by her husband, Frank, such as how bats' wings work, or why the ears of some owls are uneven, or how tiny tree frogs create their resonant songs.

Moore arranged her book in three sections, each challenging a misconception of the Western worldview: that human beings are separate from (and superior to) nature; that individual well-being can be disconnected from the ecological systems that sustain us; and that there is a distinction between the sacred and the mundane.

The essays I enjoyed the most are those in which she takes us on a journey, whether into the web of family and social connections that enrich her or the minute lives of creatures living just below the surface of the water or a leaf. She makes discoveries, such as the antics of a thieving scrub jay that has brought her much joy.

Occasionally she climbs onto the philosopher's soapbox, and although I agree with much of what she says, the lecture is not why I have come to this book. I have come to be transported and enchanted, both by her writing and what she writes about. At her best Moore does exactly that. — Alice Tallmadge

SCIENCE AND ART

The Pine Island Paradox by Kathleen Dean Moore. Milkweed Editions, 2004. Hardcover. \$20. Paperback, \$14.95. **Winner of the 2005 Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction.**

As demonstrated by her three books of nature essays, OSU philosophy professor Kathleen Dean Moore is more than willing to wade about in the muck and wonder of the earth in order to attach her lofty ideas to roots, waves and even decaying mice, if that's what has turned up. In her third book, she takes us to many of her favorite haunts, including the Alaskan wilderness island where she, her husband and their family have vacationed for years. She introduces us to its nights and silences, animal sounds, thrumming rain and to the reveries they engender.

One of the joys of reading Moore is the science and art she brings to her writing. In one essay she traces a quote from the *Book of Job* through several editions of the Bible to find the true sense of the phrase "songs in the night." In "The Augmented Fourth," she

CHALLENGES

The Gods Drink Whiskey: Stumbling Toward Enlightenment in the Land of the Tattered Buddha by Stephen T. Asma. HarperSanFrancisco, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95.

When Stephen Asma, professor of Buddhism at Chicago's Columbia College, was invited to teach a graduate seminar on Buddhist philosophy at the Buddhist Institute in Phnom Penh, he decided to write about this surreal experience. In his preface, he asks readers to approach the story "with an interest in challenging your views rather than just mirroring and confirming them."

In Southeast Asia, "The idea of human rights is not really a foundational building block," Asma writes. "This is the creepy underbelly of cultures that are oriented more toward the collective than the individual." In a movement for human rights in the flesh trade, he writes, many women's groups favor "disentangling the amoral sex work of consenting older prostitutes, which they want to decriminalize, from the morally disgusting phenomenon of child exploitation, which they want prosecuted to a greater extent."

Asma is alarmed by what he calls "supernatural Buddhism," a blending of Khmer folk religion with the faith he practices and teaches, which he sees as "largely consistent with contemporary science." When an epidemic in northeastern Cambodia is brought under control, village leaders believe that their sacrifices and ceremonies, not antibiotics administered by the World Health Organization, are responsible. "In this health-related example, supernatural spirituality seems ... dark, witless, and infantile," he writes.

Living in Phnom Penh means reflecting on the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge, at whose hands almost a third of the people of Cambodia lost their lives. Asma presents monk Tep Vong's controversial perspective that "the Cambodian people may have deserved Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge

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atrocities as karmic payback for previous sins." But he also takes readers on a harrowing tour of S-21, the infamous prison from which 17,000 people never returned.

Expect to be challenged. Expect to be grateful. — *Josephine Bridges*

THE GOOD PART

Stray Dogs & Lone Wolves: The Samurai Film Handbook by Patrick Galloway. Stone Bridge Press, 2005. Hardcover, \$19.95.

Most people associate the figure of the samurai with extreme devotion to his art, singleness of purpose and strict adherence to a particular code. It's a difficult standard for most of us to realize in our lives, one that is perhaps achieved only — albeit in slightly different form — by lovers of samurai films. Patrick Galloway, Eugene resident and author of *Stray Dogs & Lone Wolves*, is one such lover of the genre. Galloway provides readers with an extensive and passionate account of samurai films and those who have made them.

Galloway is quick to assert the artistic and aesthetic value of samurai films, which, he writes, have too often been ignored by "cinema snobs." But his book is not merely a defense of the genre. Galloway writes with the unrestrained excitement of a true fan rather than with the detachment of a critic, "funneling all of [his] monomaniacal obses-

siveness into the book."

Stray Dogs begins with a brief description of the historical period during which many samurai films are set, and provides biographical sketches of the most significant figures in the development of the genre as well as extensive reviews of 51 films. Ranging from the earliest masterpiece (*Rashomon*) to a twenty-first century effort (*Twilight Samurai*), Galloway's reviews focus primarily on "chambara" — sword films. He compensates for the occasional lack of depth in his writing by extensive knowledge of samurai films and his contextual placement of them within the

conversation between Japanese and Western filmmakers.

Ultimately, Galloway intends the book not as a comprehensive account of samurai films, but as an introduction to the genre and an impetus to those who have yet to experience (or are wary of) this wonderful slice of Japanese culture and filmmaking. At that, he succeeds admirably. — *Chris Ledford*

FINDING LIKE MINDS

A Mind Apart: Travels in a Neurodiverse World by Susanne Antonetta. Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 2005. Hardcover, \$24.95.

A *Mind Apart* is a series of connected essays that purports to explore the concept of neurodiversity, a term referring to individuals whose brains work differently enough from what is termed the "norm" that they often have trouble finding like minds with whom to relate.

Among those whom Antonetta considers neurodiverse are those who have a form of autism known as Asperger's syndrome and people with multiple personalities. Diagnosed as bi-polar, Antonetta also considers herself neuro-diverse.

In this literary collage of musings and memories, Antonetta builds on a variety of real-life experiences, such as the grey whale that detoured into Bellingham Bay one spring and starved to death, or the trial of a neighbor boy who murdered a young child. She also describes interactions with those in her close-knit, neurodiverse "tribe." These are people who understand what it means to react physically to the

sound of certain words, or to see colors when reading a number, or how it feels to live with a chorus of voices inside one's head.

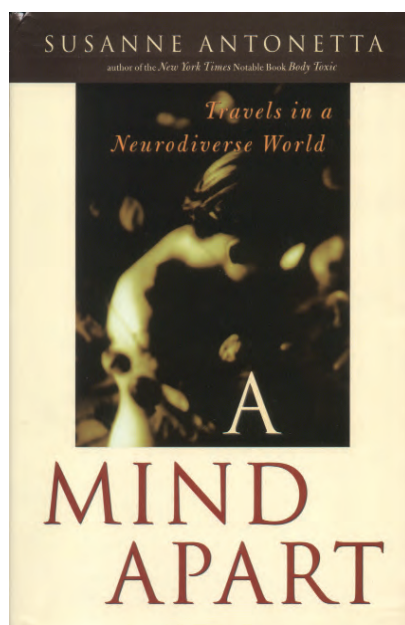
Antonetta writes that with science on the edge of making great strides in genetic engineering, the rest of the world needs to understand more about how neurodiverse brains work and how they contribute to the gene pool. Why? To forestall the possibility of artificially eliminating the very genes that give rise to neurodiversity.

Antonetta is also a poet, and her writing style is rich and textured. Of her husband she writes, "though he only gambles two or three times a year, playing craps, he does it with a bug-eyed, shiny-skinned thrill that shows dopamine high-beaming." Of herself, "so clear, my weaknesses, like the blemishes on the moon: curiosity and curiosity."

But even while appreciating her deft ability with words I was frustrated with her lengthy, self-referential musings. I wanted something more solid from this book. In the end, her group of neurodiverse friends was too small to be representational, and I wondered about so many others who haven't found peace with their mental "otherness."

In the prologue, Antonetta suggests using the term "hummingbird mind" to describe attention deficit disorder "because the mind hovers and darts among many, many things, never entirely planting itself." I would use the same comparison to sum up this book, not disregarding that the hummingbird, in its darting flight, can be quite lovely.

— *Alice Tallmadge*



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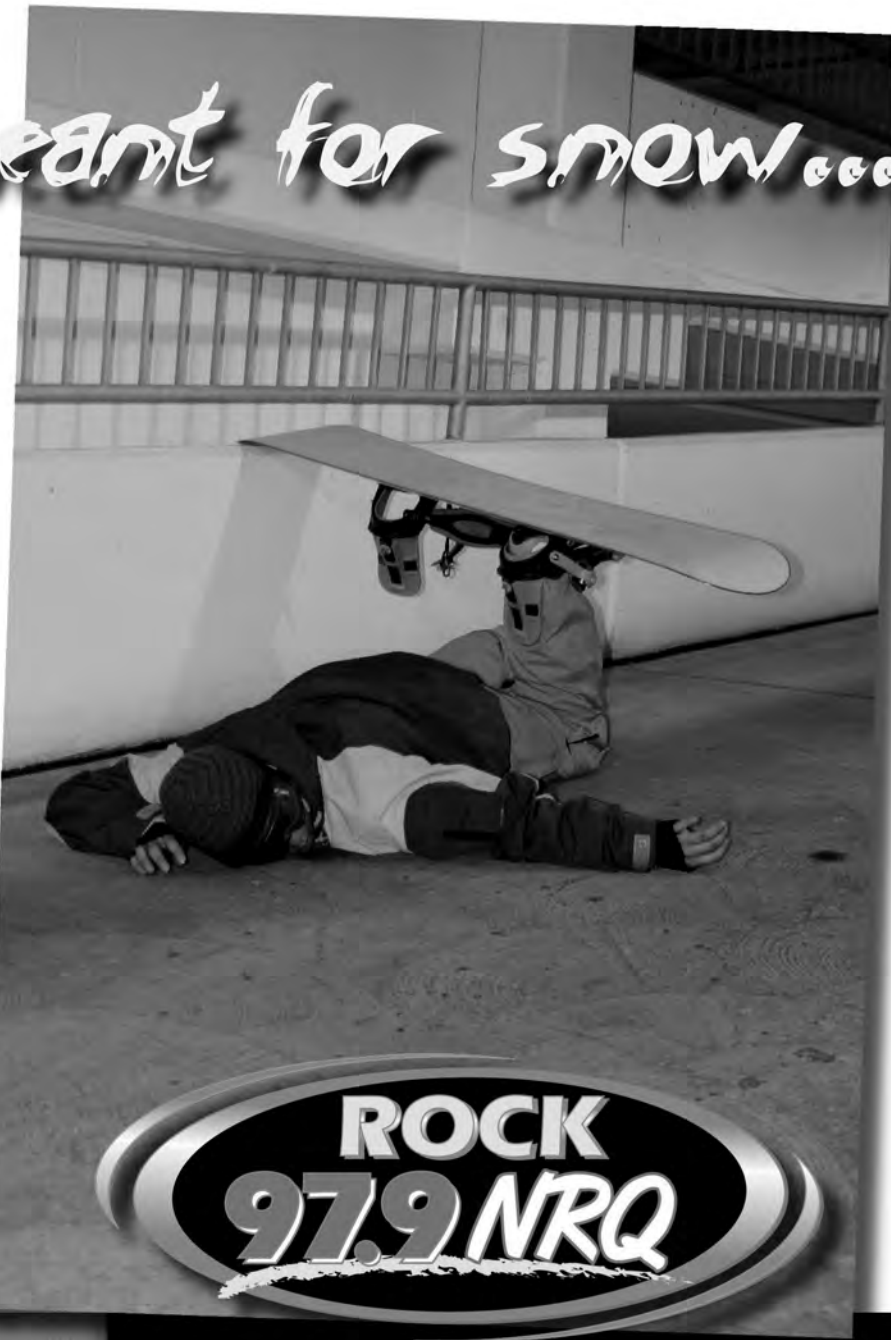
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WHAT'S happening

It's likely that to most of the world, **Calvin Johnson** will never become a household name. But for more than 20 years he's been helping "explode the teenage underground into passionate revolt against the corporate label he started in 1982. Besides running K, recording in The Big Room (a studio space in Olympia home to his Dub Narcotic Recording Studios), and helping to plan music festivals, Johnson's been in a few bands of his own, including Beat Happening and Dub Narcotic Sound System. He and Built to Spill singer/guitarist Doug Martsch also came together briefly as The Halo Benders, a Seattle supergroup of sorts that benefited from the strange, beguiling combination of Johnson's deep-voiced, talky delivery and Martsch's clear, plaintive tones. This last October, Johnson released his second solo album, *Before the Dream Faded*, which features a host of guest producers and musicians. Johnson plays The Blue Room this weekend. See Sunday Calendar.

There are about a gazillion places other than the dreaded, crowded mall to do your shopping this holiday season. There's the **Holiday Market**, for one, weekends at the Fairgrounds. This particular weekend you can pick up crafts by Eastside Elementary students who are hosting a sale to benefit local homeless families. If you're looking for art to give (or keep), try the **Artists in the Round Holiday Art Show and Sale**, or maybe the **2nd and Blair Artists' 8th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House**, featuring work by Judith Sparks, Chris Paulson, Betsy Wolfson, Peter Chapman, Alison Shiboski, Roni Simone, Sandy Tilcock and Michael DiBetto. Six local artists are selling jewelry, sculpture, mosaics, herbal body products and more at a **Holiday Studio Sale** on Saturday; **Tim Boyden** and **Linda Lu** are just a few of the artists holding studio sales over the course of the month. Eccentricities Gallery is open for the weekend, and Clear Lake Elementary tries out their first annual **Craft Faire**. Out on Camp Creek Road, a **Holiday Gift Sale and Open House** features sandtrays, Zen gardens, holiday gifts and decorations. For a change of pace, try MECCA's **Less is Best Holiday Fair**, or pick up a wreath or tree and help FOOD for Lane County at the GrassRoots Garden. Last but not least, Temple Beth Israel's **Annual Chanukah Fair** is Sunday, with music, vendors, raffles and more. See Calendar.



It's hard not to think of **Nickel Creek** as "that really young band that plays bluegrass and folk." And it's somewhat understandable — though they're in their 20s now, when they formed in 1989 the oldest member of the trio, guitarist Sean Watkins, was all of 12. The band released two early albums (now out of print and not even mentioned on the official website), but their self-titled 2000 release, produced by Alison Krauss, was what started to get people's attention. This year, they followed up the Grammy-winning *This Side* with *Why Should the Fire Die?*, another well-received combination of bluegrass, rock and alt-country that features violinist Sara Watkins singing Bob Dylan's "Tomorrow Is a Long Time." The band's tour winds through the McDonald this weekend as they head home to Southern California. See Friday Calendar.

8 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:35am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 34

ARTS/VISUAL Artists in the Round Holiday Art Show and Sale, work by Vickie Neville, Susan Klein and others, noon-7pm today, tomorrow, Dec. 10 and Dec. 15-17, 92 E. Broadway. FREE.

GATHERINGS Oregon Department of Transportation public open house to discuss the possible interchange at I-5 and Franklin, 4pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

WAND meeting, members report on the results of strategic planning workshops and present the organization's restructuring; members also report on the Burma Shave campaign, 7pm; craft items available for purchase by Friendship with Cambodia and peacewear originals from Carol Berg, 8pm, McNail-Riley House. 338-8605. Social time is at 6:30pm. FREE.

"Exploring Antarctica" slideshow presentation with Rick Ahrens, 7pm, Eugene Garden Club. \$3-\$10 ss.

Cascade Mycological Society meeting with "Rust Fungi and Their Host Plants" presentation by Bitty Roy, 7:30pm, 115 Building 16, LCC. Kyle, 463-5447. FREE.

KIDS Gimme Games for grades 1-6, word and storytelling games, 4pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

LECTURE "A Mature Spirituality," James Hollis, 7pm, 175 Knight Law, UO. \$8, \$5 Eugene Friends of Jung members, stu.

LITERARY ARTS Mid-Valley Willamette Writers Holiday Party with guest speaker Bob Welch on "Writing the Personal Essay," 6:30pm, Baker Downtown Center. Admission is one donated new or used children's book.

Maura Conlon-Mclvor reads and discusses *She's All Eyes*, 7pm, Knight Library, UO. FREE.

MUSIC The Keystoneers' CD release party, 7pm, World Café. FREE.

Yellow Swans, Axolotl, GOD, The Sounds Only Dogs Can Hear Orchestra, 7pm, EMU, UO. FREE.

Bob Schneider and Band, Suffrajett, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$12 adv., \$14 dos.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses the harvest of timber on Oregon's public lands with Ed Shepard of the Bureau of Land Management, 8am and 8pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"New Dimensions" features "An Enlightened Farmer in Kansas" with Bryan Welch, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

SPIRITUAL "Gift of Grace" Christmas dinner, 6pm tonight and tomorrow, Calvary Open Bible. \$10.

Evening satsang with Mirabai Devi and guests; kirtan with Jaya Lakshmi & friends, 7:30pm, Dharmalaya Meditation Center. Sharanam, 687-0282. \$10-\$20 don.

THEATER Willamette Repertory Theatre presents *Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas*, 7:30pm tonight; 8pm tomorrow and Dec. 10; 2pm Dec. 11, Hult Center. \$12-\$35.

The Curse of an Aching Heart; or Trapped in the Spider's Web!, 7:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10, Springfield High School. \$4.

Much Ado About Nothing, 7:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10, Thurston High School Pocket Theatre. \$5.

9 FRIDAY

Sunrise 7:36am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 34

ARTS/VISUAL 2nd and Blair Artists' 8th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House, with work

by Judith Sparks, Chris Paulson, Betsy Wolfson, Peter Chapman, Alison Shiboski, Roni Simone, Sandy Tilcock and Michael DiBetto, 5pm-9pm tonight, 11am-5pm tomorrow and noon-4pm Dec. 11, 1166 West 2nd Ave.

An artists' insight talk for "Allusion & Allegory: Eric Petersen & Beverly Soasey," 3:30pm; an opening reception follows at 5:30pm, Jacobs Gallery. FREE.

Artists in the Round Holiday Art Show and Sale continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

BENEFIT *Peter Pan: A Flight to Neverland*, an ice show benefit for Toys for Tots, 7:30pm tonight and 1pm & 7pm tomorrow, Lane County Ice Center. Admission is a new, unwrapped, store-bought toy for a child.

DANCE Hosanna Dance and Hosanna Performing Arts Foundation present *Adventures in Narnia*, 7pm today and 1pm & 7pm tomorrow, Performance Hall, LCC. www.hosannadance.com \$10, \$7 under 12.

GATHERING Pacifica Forum: "Report from Fort Benning," report by Russell Benedict and friends on the recent demonstration in Georgia seeking closure of the military training facility formerly known as the School of the

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses responsible pet ownership with Mike Wellington, program manager for the Lane County Animal Control Authority, 8am and 8pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

SPIRITUAL "Toward Oneness," a discussion of the Baha'i Faith, part of weekly open house, noon, Eugene Baha'i Center. 344-3173. FREE.

"Gift of Grace" Christmas dinner continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

THEATER *A Christmas Carol*, Broadway musical version, 7:30pm tonight & tomorrow; 2pm Dec. 11, Actors Cabaret of Eugene. \$12-\$16, \$30.95 dinner seating.

A ... My Name is Alice, 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 16 & 17; 2:30pm Dec. 11, Cottage Theatre, Cottage Grove. \$16, \$14 stu., sr.

Honk! Jr., performed by a cast of 4th-8th graders, 7pm tonight and tomorrow; 2pm Dec. 11, Pleasant Hill Community Theatre. \$8, \$6 sr. *Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

The Curse of an Aching Heart; or Trapped in the Spider's Web continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

Much Ado About Nothing continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

Show and Sale continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

2nd and Blair Artists' 8th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House continues. See Friday.

BENEFITS Holiday trees and evergreen wreaths sale to benefit FOOD for Lane County's GrassRoots Garden, 9am-5pm today & noon-5pm tomorrow, 1465 Coburg Rd. Trees \$5-\$35, wreaths \$10-\$30.

2nd Annual Jingle Bells Run & Walk, a benefit for the Parkside Community Preschool program, 9am 8K run, 9:15am 5K run/walk, 9:45am kids' run, start at Parkside Community Preschool. www.goodrace.com \$10 adv., \$15 dos registration.

UO's Suzuki Strings, a fundraiser for the UO Community Music Institute by string players age four to teens, 11am-7pm, Borders Books. Purchase books with Borders/Suzuki Strings coupons and get 10% off while 10% is donated to the Community Music Institute.

Siempre Amigos Association and Oregon Health & Science University Intercultural Psychiatric Program benefit dinner to commemorate the United Nations Human Rights International Day,

Saturday Market's Holiday Market, featuring handcrafted wares by Eastside Elementary students, a fundraiser for a local homeless family, 10am-6pm, featuring music from Chavez Family School Choir, 10:30am; Peter Thomas, 11:30am; Michael Denny All Stars, 12:30pm; Chip Cohen & Sharon Rogers, 1:45pm; The Klezmonauts, 3:15pm; and The Red Pajamas, 4:45pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. www.holidaymarket.org FREE.

Holiday Farmers' Market, 10am-6pm today and tomorrow, Lane County Fairgrounds. FREE.

Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network Day of Action neighborhood canvass, 10am, Oregon Education Association office, 2815 Coburg. 736-9041. FREE.

Holiday Bazaar, a benefit for the Stray Cat Alliance, 11am-3pm, Mountain Mist Ranch, 28940 Crow Rd. 607-4219.

Holiday High Tea, noon & 3pm, Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House. Reservations required at 484-0808. \$20.

1st Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony, 3pm, Sunset Hills Cemetery. Preparation and placement of the luminaries begins at 9am. Rain date is Dec. 17. FREE.

"Mongolia - The Land of Blue Sky" presentation, 3pm, Downtown English, 1035 Willamette. 515-0462. FREE.

Emerald Valley Opry with music by Dallas McCord, The Trammels & Co., Hanson Family Singers and more, 6pm house band, 6:30pm show, Willamette High School. \$5, \$4 sr.

Eugene Singles Ministry Holiday Dance, 7pm, Cascade Middle School. 543-1283. \$6.

Contra Dance with music by Rad Francine and calling by Woody Lane, 8pm, Kelly School Gym. 302-2628. \$7.

KIDS Breakfast with Santa, 9:30am, Petersen Barn Center. 682-5521. \$4.

Nearby Nature Quest: Winter Greens, hike, craft, trail activities and more, 10am, meet at Alton Baker Park Host Residence. Register at 687-9699. \$2, \$5 family.

OFAM's Magical Moombah!: "The Bounteous Mr. Big," 10am & 1pm, Jaqua Concert Hall at The Shedd. \$5.

Hands-on Natural Science for kids with Laura McMasters, stories, live critters, sample collecting and more, noon, Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Register at 747-1504. \$10.

American Girls book group, 2pm, Barnes & Noble. Registration required at 687-0356. FREE.

Dog Tale Time, kids read to supportive dogs, 2pm, Downtown Library. Register at 682-8316. FREE.

Sir ReadAlot's Scary Christmas, 7pm, Barnes & Noble. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Jan Eliot signs and discusses *Not So Picture Perfect* and the 10th anniversary of *Stone Soup's* syndication, 2pm, UO Bookstore. FREE.

Book signing with Jim Carpenter, illustrator of *The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics*, 5:30pm, Tsunami Books. FREE.

Eugene Poetry Slam Round II with featured poet Tara Hardy, 7:30pm signup, 8pm show, Territorial Winery. \$5, \$3 under 18.

MUSIC Atrium Amateur Hour: Flute Choir holiday concert, 2pm, Atrium, 10th & Olive. FREE.

Bill Rhoades & The Party Kings, 2pm, CD World. FREE.

Eugene Symphony presents Handel's *Messiah*, 3pm, Hult Center. \$18 & up.

Charlotte Martin, Chris Pierce, Andrew Paul Woodworth, 4:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$8.

30th Anniversary WOW Hall Membership Party: Adam & Kris, Brett Estep, Samuel Rutledge,



Americas, 4pm, 128 Chiles, UO. FREE.

KIDS Half Day of Art: painted gourds and rolled wax candles, noon, Applegate Elementary. Register at 767-0143. \$16.

Game Night for teens, bring board, word, card, strategy, creative and role-playing games, 6pm, Sheldon Library. FREE.

MUSIC Reignition Vol. 11: Unknown Horizons, Stu's Shoes, Maculate, Avid, 7:30pm, WOW Hall. \$5.

Riverside Chamber Symphony, 7:30pm, Musgrove Family Center, 11th & Olive. \$5. sug. don.

Nickel Creek, Andrew Bird, 8pm, McDonald Theatre. \$22 adv., \$25 dos.

Jessie Marquez and Mike Denny, Karim Nagi and Turbo Tabla with Astryd Farah deMichele, 8:30pm, Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$5-\$8.

Thor, My Serpentine, Rock Scarlet, 9pm, John Henry's. 21+ show. \$5.

10 SATURDAY

Sunrise 7:37am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 34

ARTS/VISUAL Holiday Studio Sale, 6 local artists sell jewelry, sculpture, mosaics, herbal body products & more, 10am-4pm, 1571 Buck St. FREE.

5th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House featuring Wild Rustic creations by Tim Boyden, 11am-5pm today & tomorrow, 1568 Fairmount. FREE.

Linda Lu's 2nd Annual Winter Studio Sale, sewn and knitted things and watercolor prints, noon-6pm today & tomorrow, 2755 Kincaid. 343-0530.

Open house, noon-5pm today and tomorrow, Eccentricities Gallery, 2368 Agate. FREE.

Artists in the Round Holiday Art

with speakers Guadalupe Quinn and Eduardo Pena and entertainment from John & Eliane Hicks, Ricardo Cardenas & Jesus Sepulveda, 5pm, World Café. 349-0301. \$10.

Peter Pan: A Flight to Neverland continues. See Friday.

DANCE *Adventures in Narnia* continues. See Friday.

FILM *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, 6pm book discussion, 7pm film, Lorane Grange. \$7 sug. don.

GATHERINGS Oregon Knife Collectors, 8am-4pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. FREE.

Less is Best Holiday Fair, learn to turn trash into treasures and how to simplify the holiday season, with Crafter's Corner Refuse Boutique, a fundraiser for BRING and MECCA, 10am-3pm today and tomorrow, MECCA, 43 W. Broadway. FREE.

1st Annual Craft Faire, 10am-6pm today and 10am-5pm tomorrow, Clear Lake Elementary. FREE.

calendar

Dharmika & Leslie, Scott Franzen, Jair, 7pm, WOW Hall. Free to CCPA members, membership available at the door for \$15 or more; guests of members \$10.

A Night of Luna Sea, one year anniversary celebration of Luna Sea Arts, with Kathryn Claire, Matthew Hayward-McDonald, Vash and Liz Myers, 7:30pm, Tsunami Books. Don.

Jane Olivor, a benefit for Greenhill Humane Society, 8pm, Jaqua Concert Hall at The Shedd. \$35-\$75.

Blue Skies, The Fabulous Jewel Tones, a night of dancing music, 8:30pm, Agate Hall. Dance lesson with Denise Steele at 7:30pm. \$8. Curt Kirkwood, Dan Jones, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$8.

Moot Davis with the Cool Deal and featuring Pete Anderson, The Koozies, The Admonitions, 10pm, John Henry's. 21+ show. \$7.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION GEARs ride, Walterville, 35-60 miles, 10am, meet at Alton Baker Park. Greg, 942-4734.

Oasis Indoor BMX, 6:30pm tonight and noon tomorrow, Lane County Fairgrounds. Registration takes place for two hours before race. \$12 race fee; spectators free.

Obsidians hike, Amazon headwaters/Raptor Center, 3 miles. See YMCA board for details.

PERFORMANCE Living History interpreter Scott Dano, as trapper Francois Jolicouer, discusses daily life at Fort Umpqua, 10am, Dorris Ranch. \$2 don.

A Celtic Christmas, a holiday tradition featuring *A Child's Christmas in Wales* read by David Stuart Bull, with music by Linda Danielson and Chico Schwall, 2pm today and tomorrow, Marché. Reservations at 342-3612. \$10.

SPIRITUAL Jaya Lakshmi and the Soja Kiirtan Band, transformational music and chants, 7pm, Far Horizonz Montessori School. \$10 sug. don.

THEATER *Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

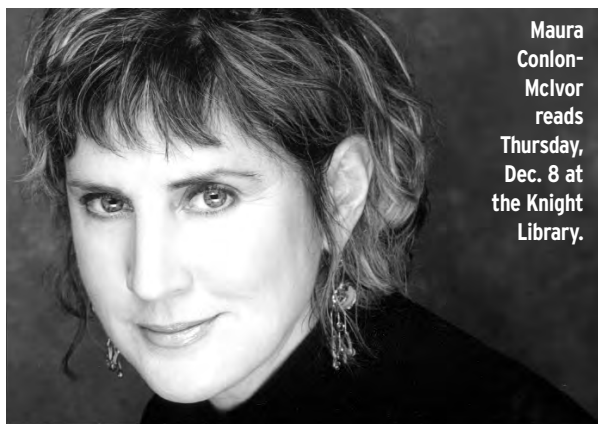
The Curse of an Aching Heart; or Trapped in the Spider's Web continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

Much Ado About Nothing continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

A Christmas Carol continues. See Friday.

A ... My Name is Alice continues. See Friday.

Honk! Jr. continues. See Friday.



Maura Conlon-McIvor reads Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Knight Library.

11 SUNDAY

Sunrise 7:38am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 34

ARTS/VISUAL 2nd and Blair Artists' 8th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House continues. See Friday.

Eccentricities open house continues. See Saturday.

Linda Lu's 2nd Annual Winter Studio Sale continues. See Saturday.

Tim Boyden's 5th Annual Holiday Studio Sale and Open House continues. See Saturday.

BENEFIT Holiday trees and evergreen wreaths sale continues. See Saturday.

FILM *A Very British Coup*, 6pm, World Café. 686-4134. FREE.

GATHERINGS Saturday Market's Holiday Market, featuring handcrafted wares by Eastside Elementary students, a fundraiser for a local homeless family, 10am-6pm, featuring music from Rusty Wholesome & Happy Chaps, 10:30am; Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene, 11:30am; Sweet Papa Lowdown, 12:30pm; Jessie Marquez & Mike Denny, 1:45pm; The Leo Brothers, 3:15pm; and Tom's Kitchen, 4:45pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. www.holiday-market.org FREE.

Annual Chanukah Fair with music by Rich Glauber, Beth Rose & Friends, Joel Bloom and Haliliyot, local artisan vendors, children's activities, raffle, food and more, 10am-3pm, Temple Beth Israel. 485-7218. \$4, \$1.50 under 12.

Holiday Gift Sale and Open House, sandtrays, Zen gardens, holiday gifts and decorations, 11am-4pm, 37945 Camp Creek Road. 747-6900. FREE.

Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network & Jobs with Justice holiday party, raffle prizes, food and

more, 3pm, Oregon Education Association office, 2815 Coburg. RSVP to 736-9041. FREE.

Food Not Bombs serves meals, 3pm-5pm, near deer mural at Washington Jefferson Park. FREE.

MOPAN Christmas Party with Show and Tell Video Festival, 6:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. FREE.

1st Annual Clear Lake Elementary Craft Faire continues. See Saturday.

Holiday Farmers' Market continues. See Saturday.

Less is Best Holiday Fair continues. See Saturday.

MUSIC Oregon Music Teachers Association Holiday Recitals, noon, with recitals by performers of all ages every hour, United Lutheran Church. FREE.

Oregon Children's Choir Holiday Concert, 3pm & 7pm, Beall Hall, UO. \$12, \$10 stu., sr.

The Motet Singers present "Lux Winter Lights," 4:30pm, Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church, Spfd. \$7, \$5 sr.

Roger Sherman organ recital, 5pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. FREE.

Los Straitjackets and the World Famous Pontani Sisters Christmas Pageant featuring Kaiser George, 8pm, WOW Hall. \$12 adv., \$14 dos.

Calvin Johnson, Tender Forever, 9pm, The Blue Room, 245 Blair. \$5.

John Henry's Broadway Revue with musical guest Eric McFadden Trio, 10pm, John Henry's. 21+ show. \$3-\$5.

ON THE AIR "Sunday at Noon" features listener call-in with host Claude Offenbacher, noon, KLCC 89.7 FM. 463-KLCC.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION GEARs ride, Dillard Road to Hwy 99 and beyond, 35-50 miles, 10am, meet at Alton Baker Park. www.eugenegears.org

Northwest Association for Adult Competitive Kickball game, 1pm, 20th & Washington. mspace.com/eugene_nwaak

Obsidians trip, Gold & Marilyn Lakes, 4.5 miles. See YMCA board for details.

Oasis Indoor BMX continues. See Saturday.

PERFORMANCE A Celtic Christmas continues. See Saturday.

PETS Adopt-A-Thon and microchip clinic, find a new pet or have yours microchipped, 11am-4pm, Westmoreland Community Center. Jennifer, 686-6768.

SPIRITUAL Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Service with the theme "Awakening to the Light of Spirit," featuring prayers, dance or song from Goddess, Baha'i, Sufi, Sikh, Native American, Buddhist, Brahma Kumaris, Christian, Islamic, Jewish and Science of Mind traditions, 7pm with 6:45pm prelude, First Christian Church. 344-5693. FREE.

Dances of Universal Peace, joyful solstic dances from many traditions taught to all ages, 7pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Don.

Way of the Tao Drum Medicine Wheel, 7pm, Yurt, 2826 Floral Hill. 915-5723. Don.

THEATER *Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

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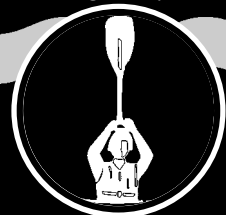
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calendar

A ... *My Name is Alice* continues.
See Friday.

A *Christmas Carol* continues. See
Friday.

Honk! Jr. continues. See Friday.

VIGIL Drums of Peace: Rhythm
Not Rhetoric, open drum circle,
2pm-4pm, Federal Building. FREE.

12

MONDAY

Sunrise 7:39am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

GATHERINGS League of
Women Voters of Lane County
December unit meetings on the
"Program Planning - State and
Local," today through Thursday, var-
ious times and locations. For details
see www.lwvlc.org/arg12.html

River Road Community
Organization meeting, 7pm, River
Road Annex. Rob, 689-6372. FREE.

Native Plant Society annual mem-
bers' slide show and holiday gath-
ering, 7:30pm, 115 Science, LCC.
Dave, 345-5531. FREE.

LECTURE "Adventures in
Organ Recording," Roger
Sherman, 7pm, Episcopal Church of
the Resurrection. Reception to
follow. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Socrates
Café book group discusses
Beloved by Toni Morrison, 7pm,
Barnes & Noble. FREE.

MUSIC Gosling, Your Enemies
Friends, StopSignGo, Kenzie,
7:30pm, WOW Hall. \$6.

Oregon Mozart Players present
"Candlelight Concert: Baroque for
the Holidays," featuring work by
Corelli, Bach, Telemann and Vivaldi,
7:30pm tonight and tomorrow, First
Christian Church. \$20-\$28.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson
Exchange" features a look at the
rapid development of renewable
energy in the Pacific Northwest,
with Dick Wandersheid of the City
of Ashland and Tom Starrs of the
Bonneville Environmental
Foundation and the American
Solar Energy Society, 8am and
8pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"60s Beat" features The Dave
Clark Five, 5pm, KRVM 91.9 FM.

"UO Today" features Wilma
Mankiller, 10:30pm tonight,
10:30am & 7:30pm tomorrow



Jane Olivor performs in
a benefit for Greenhill
Humane Society
Saturday at the
Jaqua Concert Hall.

and 7:30am Nov. 9, Community
TV of Lane County Ch. 29; 8pm
Nov. 9, Educational Access
Television, Ch. 23.

THEATER Creative Material
Group presents *Blue Hammer*,
reading and fundraiser, 7pm, Lord
Leebrick Theatre. 465-1506.

VIGIL "Women in Black
Standing for Peace," 5pm-5:30pm,
7th Avenue & Pearl St. FREE.

League of Women Voters of Lane
County December unit meetings
continue. See Monday.

LECTURES "Ethics and
Accountability in the Wake of the
Sarbanes-Oxley Act," James C.
Lanzarotta, 11:30am, Northwest
Christian College. Reservations
required at www.nwcc.edu \$10.

"Awaken the Limitless Life Within
You: Achieving Your Highest
Aspirations," Guy Finley, 7pm,
Unity of the Valley Church. 345-
9913. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS
Explorations book group discusses
Fevre Dream by George R. R.
Martin, 7pm, Barnes & Noble.
FREE.

MUSIC Eugene Community
Orchestra, 7pm, Riverpark Center.
343-7443. FREE.

David Krakauer's Klezmer
Madness featuring Socalled,
7:30pm, WOW Hall. \$14 adv., \$16
dos.

Blowfly, MoneyShot, SoundProof,
10pm, John Henry's. 21+ show. \$7.

Oregon Mozart Players continue.
See Monday.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson
Exchange" discusses coping with

13

TUESDAY

Sunrise 7:40am; Sunset 4:34pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

GATHERINGS Intercambio:
Conversation Circles / Círculos de
Conversación, adults and teens
practice English and Spanish, with
Hora de Diversión for grades 1-6,
6:30pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

Town Hall Meeting: Mayor Kitty
Piercy seeks ideas from the public
on the Sustainable Business
Initiative, 7pm, Eugene City Council
Chamber. 682-5010. FREE.

Dance Listings

TH: Adult ballet-10 & 5:30, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
Adult urban beat jazz dance-4:30, In Shape Fitness. 517-9665.
Argentine tango, all-level-8; Studio B. www.eugenetango.com
iBailámos! dance concepts en Español for ages 3-4-3:30,
Washington Park Community Center. 689-3233.
Hip hop, beginning/intermediate-4, Paradise Dance Studio.
747-1323.
NIA-9 & 6, Body Now (women only); 9, Studio B; 5:30, YMCA;
5:30, Willamalane Adult Activity Center. www.nia-nia.com
Sparkplug Dance, creative dance for teens and adults-6:30,
Washington Park Community Center. 689-3233.
Swing aerobics-noon, Paradise Dance Studio. 343-7826.
FR: Adult ballet-5:30, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
Bhangra-6, Yoga West.
Capoeira, all-level-7, In Shape Fitness.
www.capoeiraeugene.org
Flamenco, beginning-5. 431-1640.
Friday Night Dance-9, StaverDanceSport. 746-6268.
HoopDance-7, Core Star Cultural Center.
www.mandalahoops.com
NIA-9, Body Now (women only); 5:30, In Shape Fitness (868-
5900). www.nia-nia.com
Salsa-9, Studio B. 687-0678.
Tango, intro class-8; Milonga (social dance)-9, The Tango
Center. www.tangocenter.org
SA: Adult ballet-10, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
African, all-level-11, Skinner Butte Park near Campbell Senior
Center. 653-2840.
Ballroom, Latin-7:15, Studio B. www.alexanderdanceonline.com
Brazilian (Samba, xe, Coco, Maracatu, Forró)-1, Core Star
Cultural Center. 686-5708
Healing dance & yoga-11, Fool's Paradise Tea House. 653-2840.
NIA-9, Body Now. Women only. www.nia-nia.com
Pre-ballet/creative movement-11:30, Paradise Dance. 485-
4669.
Tango intro class-8; Milonga (social dance)-9, The Tango
Center. www.tangocenter.org
Tango with Homer Ladas-9, Eugene Tango Center.
West African, all levels-6:30, Odd Fellows Hall, Corvallis. 753-
6833.
SU: Ballet, intermediate-4:30, InShape Fitness.
Capoeira, all-level-7, Core Star Community Space.
www.capoeiraeugene.org

Contact improvisation-4, Eugene School of Ballet. 607-9416.
Lindy, advanced-5; intermediate-6; Lindy hop swing basics-7,
Agate Hall, UO. www.thejointisjumpin.com
International-7:15, In Shape Fitness. 726-7548.
NIA-12:30, In Shape Fitness. www.nia-nia.com
West African-11, WOW Hall. 687-2746.
MO: Adult ballet-5:30, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
Afro-rhythmic dance fitness-10, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
Capoeira, all-level-8, In Shape Fitness.
www.capoeiraeugene.org
Flamenco, beginning-7. 431-1640.
Jazz, intermediate-11, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
NIA-9 & 5, Body Now (women only); 9 & 7, Eugene School of
Ballet (868-5900); 9:30 & 5:30, Tamarack Wellness Center;
9:30, YMCA. www.nia-nia.com
Tap, beginning-7, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
West Coast swing-7, Agate Hall, UO. www.68swing.com
TU: Adult ballet-10, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
African-6:30, Fool's Paradise Tea House. 653-2840.
Eugene Swing Team-7, Rock 'n' Rodeo. 687-9464.
Hip hop, beginning/intermediate-5:30; Bhangra-7, Paradise
Dance Studio. 747-1323.
International folk-7, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 461-9328.
NIA-9 & 6, Body Now (women only); 9, Studio B; 9, YMCA;
5:30, Willamalane Adult Activity Center. www.nia-nia.com
Neuro Nurture developmental movement for babies and par-
ents-10:30, Sparkplug Dance. www.sparkplugdance.org
WE: Adult ballet-5:30, Paradise Dance. 485-4669.
Afro-rhythmic dance fitness-10, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
Capoeira, all-level-8, In Shape Fitness.
www.capoeiraeugene.org
Contact improvisation-5:30, Agate Hall, UO. 343-2913.
Dance in earth tones-9, Studio B. 342-4690.
Flamenco, beginning-6. 431-1640.
Fluid movement-9, Tamarack Wellness Center. 683-9501.
Jazz, intermediate-11, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
NIA-9 & 5, Body Now (women only); 10:30, Core Star; 7,
Eugene School of Ballet (868-5900); 5:30, Tamarack Wellness
Center. www.nia-nia.com
Swing, lindy hop-8, Studio B. www.eugenelindy.com
Tap, beginning-4:30, Paradise Dance. 747-1323.
Zydeco/cajun-7, World Café.

calendar

grief during the holidays, with Fern Snogren, a Hakomi-method counselor, and Donna Taylor of WinterSpring Center for Living with Loss and Grief, 8am and 8pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"UO Today" continues. See Monday.

VIGIL "Practicing Being Peace," silent meditation, 8:15am-8:45am, Federal Building. FREE.

14 WEDNESDAY

Sunrise 7:40am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

GATHERINGS Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council 5th Annual Holiday Open House with potluck and Special Forest Products presentation, 6:30pm, Lowell Fire Hall. Eve, 937-9800. FREE; bring potluck dish.

League of Women Voters of Lane County December unit meetings continue. See Monday.

KIDS Storytime with Mrs. Claus, 6:30pm, Barnes & Noble. FREE.

MUSIC Tre Hardson with Fuqawi, Alliance, 3 Blind Mics, Undermind, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$8 adv., \$10 dos.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses age-related issues with Sharon Johnson, 8am and 8pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"UO Today" continues. See Monday.

PERFORMANCE A Celtic Christmas, a holiday tradition featuring *A Child's Christmas in Wales* read by David Stuart Bull, with music by Linda Danielson and Chico Schwall, 9:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 19-22; 3pm Dec. 16 & 23, Café Soriah. Reservations required at 342-4410. \$10.

VIGIL Faith in Action and Progressive Responses Peace Vigil, 4:30pm-5:30pm, Federal Building. FREE.

15 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:41am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening for prints by Connie Mueller and sculpture by Dale Mueller, 5:30pm, Aesthetic Surgical Arts. FREE.

Artists in the Round Holiday Art Show and Sale continues. See Thursday, Dec. 8.

BENEFIT A Winter Celebration, a fundraiser for the Willamette Leadership Academy with dinner, entertainment, auction and more, 7pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. 935-6815 or 998-7323. \$25.

GATHERING League of Women Voters of Lane County December unit meetings continue. See Monday.

KIDS Book Buddies for grades 2-3, discuss *Weird Stories from the Lonesome Café* by Judy Cox, 4pm, Downtown Library. Register at 682-8316. FREE.

Tween Scene for grades 4-6, discuss *The Mayor of Central Park* by Avi, 4pm, Downtown Library. Register at 682-8316. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Weapon of Choice: Voice! poetry open mic, 7pm, Morning Glory Café. FREE.

MUSIC Christmas Vespers Concert with Jeff Johnson, Brian Dunning and Jozef Lupták, 7:30pm, Bethesda Lutheran Church. \$10, \$8 stu., sr.

A Misty River Acoustic Christmas featuring Doug Smith, 7:30pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. \$15 adv., \$18 dos.

ON THE AIR "New Dimensions" features "Two Opponents, One Flag" with Deirdre Combs, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

PERFORMANCE A Celtic Christmas continues. See Wednesday.

SPIRITUAL Friendly Street Church of God live nativity, enactments of the Christmas story and caroling, 7pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 17 & 18, Friendly St. between 22nd & 23rd Ave. FREE.

CORVALLIS events

THURSDAY, DEC. 8 Enchanted Evening with Michael Allen Harrison, 7pm, CH2M Hill Alumni Center. 737-2351.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, 8pm tonight, tomorrow, Dec. 10 and Dec. 15-17; 2:30pm Dec. 11, Albany Civic Theatre. \$9.

Better Hearing support group, 3:30pm, Corvallis Senior Center. ron, 754-1377. FREE.

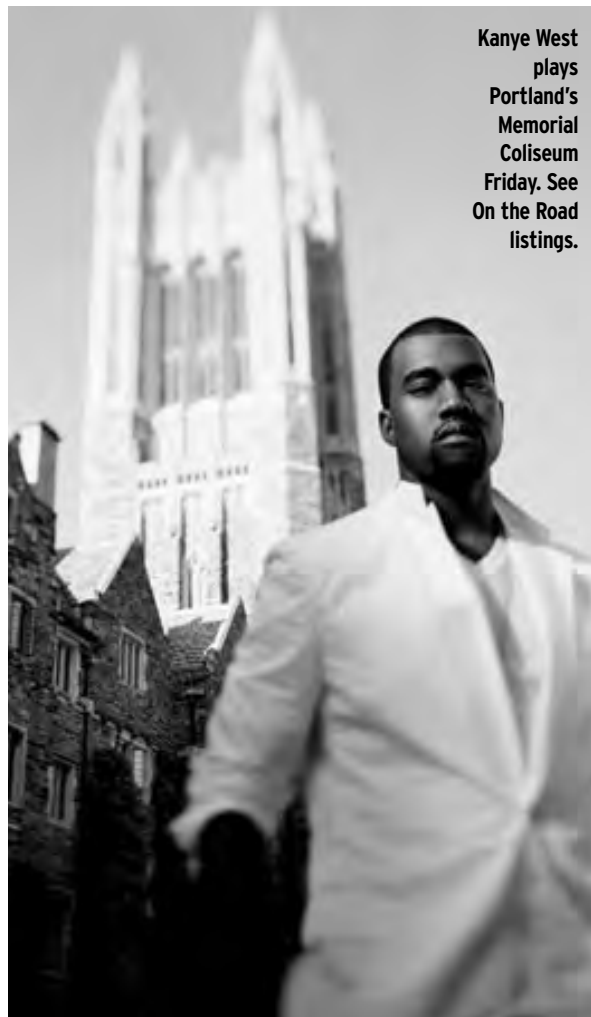
FRIDAY, DEC. 9 *An Oregon Pioneer Christmas Story*, 6:15 dinner & show; 7pm show only, tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10,

Flinn's Theater, Albany. \$27.50; \$10 show only; \$15 dessert matinee.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 Linn Benton Concert Band Holiday Concert, 2pm, Venetian Theater, Albany. FREE.

Heart of the Valley Children's Choir Holiday Concert, 3pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. \$7.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11 The HOUR Exchange Winter Celebration, locally crafted one-of-a-kind gifts,



entertainment, performances, music and more, Old World Deli. www.hourexchange.org FREE.

26th Annual Christmas Parlor Tour, 2pm-7pm, Historic Districts, Albany. www.albanyvisitors.com

Corvallis Youth Symphony Winter Concert, 3pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. \$6 adv, \$8 dos, \$2 stu.

MONDAY, DEC. 12 Perpheral Neuropathy support

group, 7pm, Corvallis Senior Center. Phyllis, 929-6779. FREE.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13 Bilingual kids' book club for grades 3-6 discusses *Stories from Latin America/Leyendas Latinoamerica* by Genevieve Barlow, 6:30pm, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. FREE.

Town Hall forum with Pacific Green Party gubernatorial candidates Joe Keating and Ed Winslow, 7pm, Westminster House. 750-

Kanye West plays Portland's Memorial Coliseum Friday. See On the Road listings.

0020. FREE.

Alzheimer's support group, 1:30pm, Corvallis Senior Center. Glenda, 745-5104. FREE.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14 Random Reviews: *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise* by Ruth Reichl, reviewed by Jan Roberts-Dominguez, noon, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. FREE.

ON THE road

Note- Continuation dates for out-of-town events are listed under the first day of the event.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8 Steven Curtis Chapman, Mercy Me, 7pm, Rose Garden, Portland. www.ticketmaster.com

Bi-Mart Winter Wonderland, 5pm-10pm Sundays through Thursdays and 5pm-11pm Fridays and Saturdays through Jan. 1, Portland International Raceway. \$14 per car.

The Polar Express, an adventure to the North Pole, 6pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10 and 13-23, Mt. Hood Railroad, Hood River. \$24, \$16 kids.

Do Jump for the Holidays, 7:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10, 15-17 and 20-23; 3pm Dec. 11 and 18, Echo Theatre, Portland. \$22 adv., \$26 dos.

Inspecting Carol, 7:30pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 10 and 14-17; 2pm Dec. 11 and 18, Cascades Theatrical Company, Bend. 389-0803.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9 Kanye West, Fantasia, Keyshia Cole, 8pm, Memorial Coliseum, Portland. \$35-\$45.

Tere Mather Dance presents *The Grammar of Regret*, 8pm tonight and tomorrow; 3pm & 7pm Dec. 11, Conduit Dance, Portland. \$14, \$12 stu., sr.

Beth Willis, 7:30pm, Blu Cork Wine Bar, Newport. FREE.

The Trail Band, 7pm tonight, tomorrow and Dec. 11; 2pm tomorrow and Dec. 11, Aladdin Theater, Portland. \$18.50-\$35.

Jackstraw, 8pm, Mojo Rising, Ashland. \$10 adv., \$15 dos.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 Lorelli Wines tasting, 1pm-5pm, The Wine Place, Yachats. FREE.

The Newport Symphony Orchestra presents "December Drama," 7:30pm, Newport Performing Arts Center. \$20-\$25, \$12 stu.

Victorian Christmas Open House, music, treats and more, 3pm-7pm today, tomorrow and Dec. 17 & 18, Heceta Lightstation. www.hecetalighthouse.com

An evening of music for Mississippi with Changing Folkus, Emy Phelps, the Moore Brothers Bluegrass Band, 8pm, Mojo Rising, Ashland. Don.

Myrtle Creek Winter Festival and Timber Truckers Light Parade, fire truck rides, parade, chili feed and more, Millsite Park. 863-3171.

An opening for "18 Artists," 4pm, Portland Art Center. www.portlandart.org

SUNDAY, DEC. 11 Chie Nagatini, 2pm, Newport Performing Arts Center. \$15, \$12 sr., \$8 stu.

David Lanz, 7pm, First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg. \$15 adv., \$18 dos.

Community Chorus Concert, 2pm, Florence Events Center. 997-1994.

MONDAY, DEC. 12 Andre Rieu with Johann Strauss Orchestra, 8pm, Rose Quarter, Portland. \$45-\$55.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13 The Dandy Warhols, 8pm, Wonder Ballroom, Portland. \$15.

The Bravery, Morning Wood, 9pm, Crystal Ballroom, Portland. \$15.

Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings, The Soul Mechanic, 9pm, Doug Fir Lounge. 21+ show. \$12 adv., \$14 dos.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14 Terry Evans, 8pm, Domino Room, Bend. \$10 adv., \$13 dos.

The Dandy Warhols, Pentecost Hotel, 9pm, Crystal Ballroom, Portland. \$15.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15 Taarka, 8pm, Domino Room, Bend. \$8 adv., \$11 dos.

ATTN: OPPORTUNITIES

Sing and perform Russian music, classical and folk. Choir open to men and women of all ages; ability to read music and speak Russian not necessary. Meets 7pm Mondays at 2650 Willamette (use rear entrance of Harmony Road School). 747-7416.

Musicians are invited to submit CDs to the Indie Acoustic Project's Best CDs of 2005 Awards. Any CD 25 minutes or longer that is mostly acoustic and has been (or will be) released during 2005 by any entity other than a major U.S. label is eligible. Submissions must be postmarked by Dec. 31 and sent to Indie Acoustic Project, 570 Union Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304. For information go to www.indieacoustic.com

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wall hangings
pot holders
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dolls

warm knitted things
sweaters
vests
socks
shawls
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letterpress books/prints
Sandy Tilcock

painting
Judith Sparks

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Roni Simone

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Peter Chapman

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STUDIO SALE & OPEN HOUSE**

**Friday
December 9
5-9 PM**

**Saturday
December 10
11-5 PM**

**Sunday
December 11
12-4 PM**

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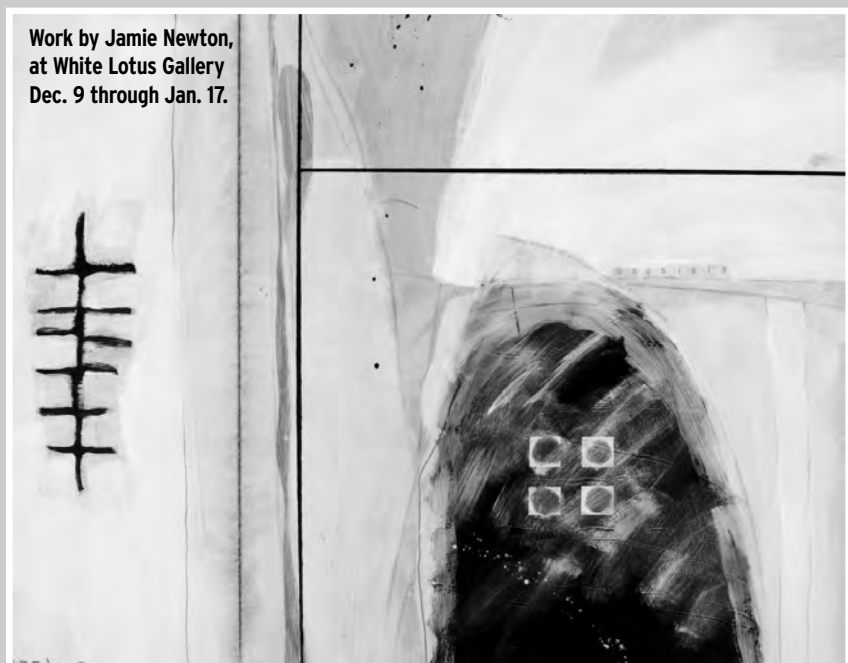
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Dec. 10-11**

**Also
Dec. 17-18,
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**10 am to 6 pm
(12/24 til 4)**

**In the Exhibit Hall at the Lane County Fairgrounds
13th & Jefferson Free Admission Free Parking**

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Work by Jamie Newton,
at White Lotus Gallery
Dec. 9 through Jan. 17.

art in the galleries

All exhibits free unless otherwise noted.

462 Polk Studio Gallery Paintings, clay masks, posters, prints and more by Kiki Metzler and other artists, ongoing. Noon-3pm Tu-Th; 6pm-9pm Last Fridays, and by appointment. 462 Polk St. 342-6776.

Adell McMillan Gallery "Nearly Seen Again," photography by Toby Ensign, through Dec. 9. Additional work displayed in the Aperture Gallery. 7am-11:30pm M-F; 10am-11:30pm Sa & Su. EMU, UO.

Aesthetical Surgical Arts Prints by Connie Mueller and sculpture by Dale Mueller, through Jan. 31. An opening is 5:30pm Thursday, Dec. 15. 8:30am-5:30pm M-Sa. 2550 Willakenzie Road.

Alder Gallery "La Petite XIII," through Jan. 21. 11am-5pm Tu-Sa; 11am-3pm Su. Coburg. 342-6411

Applegate Art Gallery Work by local artists, ongoing. 11am-4pm Tu-Sa. 88338 Territorial, Veneta.

The Art of Everything Work by local artists, ongoing. Noon-6pm, Tu-F; noon-4pm Sa. 513 Main St., Cottage Grove.

Art-Exiled Original work by refugee artists, currently specializing in work by Burmese refugees, ongoing. By appointment. 1973 Pierce St. 689-2441. www.art-exiled.org

Bagel Sphere Watercolors and mixed media by Ellen Gabehart's students, through Dec. 28. 6am-4pm M-F; 7am-4pm Sa; 8am-3pm Su. 5768 Main, Spfld.

Benton County Historical Museum "In Print: Ten Printmakers," through Dec. 30. 10am-4:30pm Tu-Sa. 1101 Main St., Philomath.

Café Zenon Mixed-media by Martha Kimball, through Jan. 2. 8am-11pm Su-Th; 8am-midnight F & Sa. 898 Pearl St.

Circle of Hands Fine art nude photography by Jason Couch, through Jan. 3. 11:30am-5:30pm daily. 1030 Willamette St.

Cortesia Sanctuary Gallery Mystical nature photography and watercolors by Tricia Clark-McDowell, ongoing. By appointment. 84540 McBeth Rd. 343-9544.

DIVA Maude Kerns Downtown Gallery presents "Unusually Unusual," work by Roger Evers, through Dec. 30. "Mostly Oregon - Landscape Paintings," work by Sheila Ward, through Dec. 30. Noon-6pm Tu-Sa; noon-9pm First Fridays. 110 W. Broadway Ave.

Downtown Lounge Work by Michael Fulton, through Dec. 31. 11am-2am M-F; 3pm-2am Sa & Su. 959 Pearl St.

Eccentricities Zimbabwean tapestries and storyboard, unique and colorful art by various artists, ongoing. 1pm-6pm W & by appointment; open houses every weekend in December, noon-5pm. 2368 Agate St. 484-1490.

Emerald Art Center 20 top award-winning paintings from the Fall Show of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, through Dec. 29. Featured member artists for December are Donna Schimmels and Evelyn Tam. 11am-4pm Tu-Sa. 500 Main Street, Spfld. 726-8595.

Espresso PRN Galleries Oil paintings by Suma Elan, through Dec. 14. Third Floor, Sacred Heart Medical Center, 1255 Hilyard. Photography by Susan McCready, through Dec. 14. Annex, PeaceHealth Medical Group, 1162 Willamette.

Eugene Public Library "Celebrating Two Nations" and "We Are Kalapuya," through Dec. 31. 10am-8pm M-Th; 10am-6pm F-Su; 10am-8pm First Fridays. 110 W. 10th Ave.

Family Vision Center Work by Rod Gillilan, ongoing. 8am-5:30pm M-Th; 8am-4:30pm F. 1471 Pearl St.

Fenario Gallery Work by Debra Wade, through Feb. 2. Noon-6pm Tu-Sa. 570 Willamette St.

Flying Turtle Gallery Work by Alison McNair, Sharon Wick, Laura Beamer, Sean Ben-Safed, others, ongoing. 10am-6pm Th-M. 47488 Hwy 58, Oakridge. 782-1178.

Full City Coffee Roasters Watercolors and acrylics by Rosalyn Rufo, through Dec. 11. Watercolors by Margaret Godfrey, through Jan. 1. 5:30am-6pm M-F; 6:30am-6pm Sa; 7am-5pm Su. 842 Pearl St.

Galleries at the Events Center "Celebrate Arts 2005," through Dec. 31. 9am-5pm M-F and by appointment and during events. 715 Quince St., Florence.

Gallery at the Airport "Threads," an exhibit of fiber art, Dec. 19 through March 16. Viewing by ticketed passengers or by appointment. Eugene Airport. 744-0909.

Gallery at Opus6ix "4 12 Inches (Less Than or Equal to 12 Inches)," through Dec. 31. 10am-6pm Th-Th & Sa; 10am-8pm F; 11am-4pm Su. 22 W. 7th Ave.

Giustina Gallery "The Oregon Coast: Visions and Perspectives," work by 20 local photographers and 15 poets, through Dec. 31. 8am-5pm M-F. LaSells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis.

Golden China Buffett Work by William Kasper, through Jan. 31. 11am-9pm daily. 1525 Franklin Blvd.

Health Information Library, PeaceHealth Medical Group Annex Oil portraits of physicians by Jo Brasells, through Dec. 31. 9am-4:30pm M-Th; 9am-1pm F. 1202 Willamette St.

Hinman Vineyards Work by Richard Quigley, Jeannine Edelblut, Rick Williams, ongoing. Noon-5pm daily. 27012 Briggs Hill Rd. 345-1945.

I Run With Scissors Salon Mosaic table, fractals, oils and

more, ongoing. Evenings, W-F. 570 Lawrence St., Suite 112.

Ivan Kelly Studio-Gallery Paintings by Ivan Kelly, ongoing. 11am-5pm Sa; 1pm-5pm Su. 207 E. Graham, Toledo. 336-1124.

Jacobs Gallery "Allusion & Allegory: Eric Petersen & Beverly Soasey," Dec. 9 through Jan. 21. An opening is 5:30pm Friday; an artists' insight talk is 3:30pm Friday. Noon-5pm Tu-F; 11am-3pm Sa. Hult Center.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art "Michael Kenna: Views of Japan," through Jan. 22. "Inside the Floating World: Japanese Prints from the Lenoir C. Wright Collection" and "Ukiyo-e Outside In," through Jan. 8. Van Gogh's *Femme Dans Un Jardin* and Henri Edmund Cross' *Un Pin*, through June. 11am-5pm Th-Su; 11am-8pm W. \$5, \$3 stu., sr.

Karin Clarke Gallery New landscapes by Margaret Coe, through Dec. 31. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 760 Willamette St. 684-7963.

Lane County Historical Museum "Oregon Trail" and other exhibits, ongoing. 10am-4pm W-F; noon-4pm Sa, Su. 740 W. 13th Ave. \$2.

Lane Memorial Blood Bank Work by James Cloutier, through Dec. 9. 8am-5pm M-F. 2211 Willamette.

Laverne Krause Gallery Work by Hoa Lan Tran, Deborah Allen and Grant Hottle, through Dec. 9. 10am-5pm M-F. Lawrence Hall, UO.

LCC Center for Meeting and Learning Gallery "Studio Mates: Remembering David Joyce Through the Work of John Bauguess, Bob Devine and Ron Finne," through Feb. 2006. 9am-5pm M-F and occasional evening and weekend hours. Building 19, Lane Community College. 463-3511.

Letterhead Gallery Sculpture by Frank Russell and Betty Wolfston, ongoing. 10am-6pm M-F; 9am-5pm Sa. 25 E. 8th Avenue.

Luna Work by Jerry Ross, through Jan. 7. 4pm-10pm Tu-Th; 4pm-midnight F-Sa. 30 E. Broadway.

Magic Carpet Cultural Center "Under the Bloc: Carpets Woven in Soviet Occupied Worlds," through Dec. 20. Noon-6pm Tu-F and by appointment. 1801 Willamette St., Suite 210. 687-6700.

Maude Kerns Art Center "Art for All Seasons," annual membership show and Club Mud show and sale, through Dec. 23. 10am-5pm M-F; Noon-4pm Sa. 1910 E. 15th Ave. \$3 sug. don.

Mrs. Thompson's "Tree Mystery: A Holiday Celebration of Celtic Traditions," mixed media work by artists and photographers, through Jan. 6. 11am-7pm M-F; Noon-5pm Sa. 27 W. 5th Ave.

Museum of Modern Malabon Art Student artwork, grades K-5, ongoing. 8:15am-2:15pm M-F. Malabon Elementary School, 1380 Taney St.

Museum of Natural and Cultural History "The Long View: Eastern Oregon Landscapes by Garry Fritz," through Dec. 22. "Lewis, Clark and Company: Ambassadors, Explorers and Naturalists," through Jan. 2006. 11am-5pm Tu-Su. 1680 E. 15th Ave. \$3, \$2 sr.

Museum of Unfine Art Work by Andy Helps, Jayme Vineyard, Richard Carter Russell and Jon 7, through Dec. 14. 10:37am-7pm M-F; 1:14pm-7pm Sa. 537 Willamette St.

New Odyssey "Beautiful Minds," work by David Rosenow, Ron Lafond and Michel Savage, through Feb. 1. 7:30am-6pm M-Th; 7:30am-8pm F; 9am-5pm Sa & Su. 1004 Willamette.

Of Grape and Grain Work by Claudia "Cloud" Gray, Margaret Joyce, Raphael Schepf and Stephen Bennett, through Jan. 5. 9am-5pm M-Sa; noon-4:30pm Su. 160 Oakway Rd.

Opus6ix Work by Jerry Baron, Gaya Glass, Pat Horsley and others, ongoing. 10am-6pm Tu-Th & Sa; 10am-8pm F; 11am-4pm Su. 22 West 7th Ave.

Oregon Gallery Photography by Ron Keebler, watercolors by Michael Smith, pottery by Richard Sanchez and work by many Northwest artists, ongoing. 10am-6pm M-F; 11am-7pm Sa; noon to 5pm Su. 199 E. 5th Ave., Suite 5.

Sam Bond's Garage "Icons," work by Claire Flint, through Dec. 30. 4pm-late daily. 407 Blair Blvd.

Sattva Gallery Work by Mitzi Linn, ongoing. 10am-7pm M-Sa; 10am-6pm Su. 1801 Willamette St.

Secret House Winery "Little Pond Nature Prints," work by Bruce Koike, ongoing. 11am-5pm daily. 88324 Vineyard Lane, Veneta.

Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson House 8th Annual Victorian Christmas Exhibit, through mid-Jan. 10am-1pm Tu-F; 1pm-4pm Sa, Su. 303 Willamette St. \$5.

Sweet Home Gallery Work by Maria Avila, Lee Dunning and Adriana Avila, ongoing. 9am-7pm daily. 2690 Kalmia St., Sweet Home.

Tamarack Wellness Center Gallery 2nd Annual Photography Exhibit, including work by Debby and Rick Barich, Eric Brandt, Jon Alan Deming, James Guay, Scott Edward Huette and Nancy Yamin, through Feb. 24. 9am-5:30pm M-F; 9:30am-noon Sa. 3575 Donald St.

University of Oregon Law Center "Chromatography," photography by Jame Guay, through Jan. 6. 9am-10pm M-Su. 1515 Agate St.

White Lotus Gallery Work by Helen Lio, Connie Mueller, Gary Tepfer and Jamie Newton, Dec. 9 through Jan. 17. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 767 Willamette St. 345-3276.

Willamalene Adult Activity Center Gallery "The World of Cats: Images in Acrylic," work by Shirley Reade, through Dec. 30. 8am-5pm M-F. 215 West C St., Spfld.

WOW Hall Lobby Paintings by Jeff Hurt, through Dec. 31. 3pm-6pm M-F. WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th.



Charlie (John Cusack) and Renato (Connie Nielsen) at the Sweet Cage.

Men Behaving Badly

Xmas noir

CHUCK HODES, FOCUS FEATURES, 2005.

THE ICE HARVEST: Directed by Harold Ramis. Written by Richard Russo and Robert Benton, based on the novel by Scott Phillips. Produced by Albert Berger and Ron Yerxa. Executive producers Robert Benton, Richard Russo, Glenn Williamson. Cinematographer Alar Kivilo. Editor, Lee Percy. Production design, Patrizia von Brandenstein. Music by David Kitay. Music supervisor, Tracy McKnight. Costume design, Susan Kaufmann. Starring John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton and Connie Nielsen. With Randy Quaid, Oliver Platt and Mike Starr. Focus Features Release, 2005. R. 88 minutes.

Tying down the *Bad Santa* spot on 2005's holiday film list is this irreverent heist flick — action, thriller, black comedy. (Don't you love it when they make a movie and then don't know what to call it?) Trying to be all things at once is usually the death knell for a film, but this movie is saved by a really funny script from acclaimed writers Richard Russo and Robert Benton, and the assured direction of veteran Harold Ramis.

My guffaws began with the opening sequence, shown over a sappy rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy," as harried Charlie (John Cusack) ducks in and out of Witchita, Kan., smoky bars on Christmas Eve, looking for his pal and partner-in-crime, Vic (Billy Bob Thornton). Charlie has just successfully embezzled \$2 million from his mob boss, Bill Guerrard (Randy Quaid), but now Vic takes charge of the dough, and they arrange a meeting place and time to get out of town.

In the remainder of the film, Charlie runs into an exceedingly drunk Pete (Oliver Platt), a former friend who's now married to Charlie's ex-wife. Pete's troubles escalate as Charlie takes him for one last drink here and there before a disastrous drop-in at the home of his ex-wife and two children, and his former mother-in-law. After that, Charlie slinks around like a whipped dog, going from one strip club to another, clubs with names like the Sweet Cage, the Teaze-o-Rama, the Velvet Touch.

As a conflicted mob lawyer, Charlie's modest goal is to leave Wichita alive, with his share of the money and the beautiful Renata (Connie Nielsen), who also works for the mob. Charlie chases her around here

and there as the evening wears on. Eventually, the pace picks up as it becomes clear that a hit man named Roy (Mike Starr) is on the trail of both Charlie and Vic. From that point on, the movie turns more toward the thriller side of things, with occasional situational comedy, but no really light moods.

As Roy, Starr has one of the truly funny roles in the whole movie, and much of that time he's tucked inside a metal footlocker. T.J. Jagodowski also has a minor comic role as Officer Tyler, who crops up at interesting times. Nielsen plays the ice queen Renata to perfection. Brrr. Quaid isn't around for very long, but he's credible as a stone-cold killer.

Cusack's Charlie is a buttoned-down, uptight dude, full of self-loathing, with a moral center he has misplaced. Thornton underplays Vic so well you almost start thinking he's a good guy. Platt overplays his drunken scenes and becomes tiresome, with a few notable exceptions. Reminiscent of the Coen Brothers' work, *The Ice Harvest* will make you look at your ice cubes differently.

The entire thing is a pulpy noir with lots of killings, ably directed and written; technically outstanding. Ramis was a writer, performer on "The National Lampoon Show" before making his screenwriting debut with *National Lampoon's Animal House*, one of Eugene's very favorite films. Russo wrote *Empire Falls*, which won a 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Literature, then adapted it for HBO into an Emmy-award winning two-part series. Benton won Academy Awards for writing *Kramer vs Kramer* and *Places in the Heart*; and his debut was as co-writer for *Bonnie and Clyde*.

'Tis the season to be jolly for some of us, but those with a decidedly downbeat attitude, *The Ice Harvest* may help you forget what ails you. Its appeal is limited by its violence, I believe. Although none of the characters killed are what you'd call upstanding citizens, I left the theater being sure (again) that comedy and murder make strange bedfellows. Now playing at Cinemark, it's recommended for its structural strength as American noir.

EW

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[10:30], 11:10, 11:55, 2:10, 2:50, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 10:10, 10:40

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OPENING OR RETURNING:

Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe: One of the most beloved adventure stories written, this is the tale of four siblings who walk into a magic land and meet astonishing creatures who change their lives forever. Based on C.S. Lewis' timeless stories, the film is directed by New Zealander Andrew Adamson. It stars Tilda Swinton, Rupert Everett, Jim Broadbent, Ray Winstone and children: Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes and William Moseley. PG. Cinema World. Cinemark.

Elizabethtown: Cameron Crowe (*Vanilla Sky*, *Almost Famous*) directs Orlando Bloom as a young man who's just lost his job, his girlfriend and his father. He meets Kirsten Dunst on a plane. This romantic comedy-drama tells his story of returning home to Kentucky and finding new meaning in his life. PG-13. Movies 12.

French Lieutenant's Woman, The (1981): Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons star as lovers in two parallel stories – one Victorian, one modern – in this screen adaptation of the novel by John Fowles written by Harold Pinter and directed by Karel Reisz. Excellent film. R. At 6:30 pm on 12/19 in the Lorane Grange Hall 54 in Lorane, OR. \$7.

King Kong: Peter Jackson's highly anticipated re-imagining of the original film stars Naomi Watts as an actress, Jack Black as an adventurous filmmaker, and Adrien Brody as a playwright. Their troubles begin when they capture a giant ape and bring him to the city. Midnight show 12/13 at Cinemark. Opens 12/14.

Kiss, Kiss, Bang, Bang: A popular play performed at Lord Leebrick Theater some seasons ago is now a film directed by writer Shane Black, starring Robert Downey Jr., Val Kilmer and Michelle Monaghan. Downey should be great as Harry, a charming petty thief who stumbles into a one-way ticket to Hollywood and finds himself over his head in the murky waters of Los Angeles. Great reviews! R. Bijou.

Syriana: Long-anticipated Middle East thriller about oil and the treacherous politics of producers vs. business interests was written and directed by the great Stephen Gaghan (*Traffic*). Stars George Clooney as CIA agent, energy analyst Matt Damon and Washington attorney Jeffrey Wright. Also Chris Cooper, William Hurt, Mazhar Munir, Tim Blake Nelson, Amanda Peet, Christopher Plummer and Alexander Siddig. Don't miss. R. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price: Highly critical of Wal-Mart's corporate tactics and the impact the company has on local economies across the country, this documentary was produced and directed by Robert Greenwald (*Outfoxed*). Bijou.

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

CONTINUING:

Aeon Flux: Starring Charlize Theron and Marton Csokas and directed by Karyn Kusama (*Girlfight*), this futuristic sci-fi thriller is based on characters created by Peter Chung for the MTV animated series. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.

Capote: Director Bennett Miller and writer Dan Futterman create a moving portrait of writer Truman Capote (*In Cold Blood*) during the years following grisly Kansas murders that rocked the country. Philip Seymour Hoffman gives an indelible performance, likewise Catherine Keener. Clifton Collins plays Perry Smith, one of the killers befriended by Capote. Very highest recommendations. R. Bijou. **Online archives.**

Chicken Little: Disney's first fully computer-animated feature film is a comedy adventure that brings a satirical twist to the classic fable. Voices by Zach Braff, Garry Marshall, Joan Cusack, Steve Zahn. G. Cinemark.

Corpse Bride, Tim Burton's: Stop-motion animated film set in a 19th

century European village is voiced by Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter and Emily Watson. Movies 12.

First Descent: Documentary by Kemp Curly and Kevin Harrison about snowboarding – its history and future. Stars snowboarding greats (as themselves): Shawn Farmer, Terje Haakonsen, Nick Peralta, Hannah Tefer and Shaun White. Mountain scenery, music and action! PG-13. Cinemark

Flightplan: Jody Foster stars in this Brian Grazer-produced psychological thriller about a woman whose 6-year old daughter disappears without a trace mid-flight in a state-of-the-art aircraft. Directed by Robert Swenke, film also stars Peter Sarsgaard and Sean Bean. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Fog, The: Remake (and slight rewrite) of John Carpenter's horror flick by the same name, this version tells the story of ghostly lepers returning to take their revenge on a small town's descendants. Stars Tim Welling, Maggie Grace and Selma Blair. PG-13. Movies 12.

Forty-Year Old Virgin: Andy Sitzer (Steve Carell) has lived a life of involuntary chastity, and his friends are determined to do something about his state. Directed by Judd Apatow, the film stars Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd and others. R. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Good Night and Good Luck: Edward R. Murrow did more to make television a serious news venue than almost any other journalist. George Clooney's film is set in 1953, when the CBS newsmen (played by David Strathairn) battled powerful Senator Joseph McCarthy (shown only in archival shots and speaking his own words).. McCarthy's witch hunting tactics were on display in the House Un-American Activities Committee, and Clooney wants us to remember Murrow's courage. As *The New York Times* puts it: "Murrow, a war hero in his own right, recognized McCarthyism as a domestic echo of Nazism." This may be the best movie of the year. Very highest recommendations. PG. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Starring Daniel Radcliffe. Emma Watson and Rupert Grint, this episode finds Harry's friends trying to help him through difficult times, as evidence of the presence of Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) appears. Voldemort was last seen 13 years ago, the night he murdered Harry's parents. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.

History of Violence, A: After foiling a robbery in his small-town diner, Viggo Mortensen's quiet life with his wife and two children is plunged into a media circus, which attracts unsavory characters who claim they are from his shady past. Directed by the great David Cronenberg, the film also stars Maria Bello, William Hurt and Ed Harris. One of the best films of 2005, despite its violence. R. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Ice Harvest: John Cusack plays a mob lawyer and Billy Bob Thornton's a pornographer who get themselves in a bind one Christmas Eve in this action comedy from director Harold Ramis and writers Richard Russo and Robert Benton. Connie Nielsen, Randy Quad and Oliver Platt also star.. *Variety* calls it "a treat for grown up audiences with an ear for sardonic dialogue." Let's go! R. Cinemark. **See review this issue.**

In Her Shoes: Directed by Curtis Hanson. Sisters Maggie (Cameron Diaz) and Rose (Toni Collette) have little in common, but after a major break, they find their way back together with the help of a grandmother (Shirley MacLaine) they didn't know existed. Unsentimental tale of sisters who must find their way to self-awareness, film features great performances by all three principals. Perfect little film deserves highest recommendations. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Jarhead: Screen adaptation of Marine Anthony Swofford's memoir of his disorienting experiences in the Gulf War stars Jake Gyllenhaal as "Swoff," Jamie Foxx and Peter Sarsgaard. Directed by Sam Mendes. Highest recommendations. R. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Just Friends: When Chris (Ryan Reynolds) returns to his 10-year high school reunion, he's hoping his best friend (Amy Samart) will be more than friends. PG-13. Cinemark.

Just Like Heaven: Romantic comedy starring Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo is set in San Francisco, where both claim a charming apartment is theirs alone. When she discovers she can walk through walls, they determine to solve the mystery. Directed by Mark Waters (*Mean Girls*, *Freaky Friday*). PG-13. Movies 12.

Lord of War: International arms dealer (Nicolas Cage) tries to stay ahead of an Interpol agent (Ethan Hawke), his competitors and his ruthless customers. Also, Bridget Moynahan, Jared Leto, Ian Holm. R. Movies 12.

March of the Penguins: Documentary director Luc Jacquet's film chronicles the oft-repeated survival of the species in the wind-strewn wilderness of Antarctica. Film tracks a pair of Emperor Penguins across continent. Includes intimate scenes of the big birds mating. This unique film has now played in every theater in Eugene, Springfield. G. Movies 12.

Paradise Now: Excellent multinational film by Hany Abu-Assad and Bero Beyer about two young Palestinian men selected to be suicide bombers and how their subsequent actions affect their families, the wider community and their own inarticulate desires for life. Great performances by Kais Nashif, Ali Suliman and Lubna Azabel. Don't miss! Very highest recommendation. PG-13. Bijou. **Online archives.**

Pride & Prejudice: Jane Austen's romantic, witty and emotionally delicious romance stars Keira Knightley as Lizzie and Matthew Macfadyen as the man she loves to hate, Mr. Darcy. Ably directed by Joe Wright and adapted by Deborah Moggach, film also stars Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Brenda Blethyn, Donald Sutherland, Simon Woods, Tom Hollander. Playful and pleasing but with strong subtext of the situation of poor women, this excellent social comedy has stayed timely since its publication in 1813. Highest recommendations. PG. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

Prime: Therapist (Meryl Streep) helps a client (Uma Thurman) involved with a younger man (Bryan Greenberg), who is the therapist's son. Comedy written and directed by Ben Younger. PG-13. Movies 12.

Rent: The acclaimed Broadway show based on Puccini's classic opera, *La Boheme*, comes to the small screen with performances by Rosario Dawson, Taye Diggs, Jesse L. Martin, Idina Menzel, Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, Wilson Heredia and Tracie Thoms. Set in New York's East Village, the film follows a group of artists struggling with obstacles of poverty, illness and the AIDS epidemic. PG-13. Cinemark.

Sky High: Son of superheroes The Commander (Kurt Russell) and Jetstream (Kelly Preston), poor Will (Michael Angarano) must go to Sky High, an elite high school, where he battles a nasty gym coach (Bruce Campbell), a bully, teen angst, parental expectations and girl problems. Wow! PG. Movies 12.

Walk the Line: The new Johnny Cash biopic stars the excellent Joaquin Phoenix as the singer, songwriter known as the Man in Black and Reese Witherspoon (with dark hair) as singer, songwriter June Carter Cash, his second wife and partner for 35 years. Directed by James Mangold. Highest recommendations for this musical love story. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Yours, Mine and Ours: When single parents Frank (Dennis Quaid) and Helen (Rene Russo) marry they have 18 children between them. The kids don't approve of the merger. Trouble follows. Co-stars Rip Torn and Linda Hunt. PG. Cinema World. Cinemark.

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Organically Grown

Tre Hardson grows grassroots hip hop.

You might remember Tre Hardson back when he was called SlimKid, one-fourth of The Pharcyde, the group that brought you the early 1990s hits "Passin' Me By" and "Ya Mama." The group's jazzy loops and clever lyrics put them on the hip hop map, but Hardson left that group and moved onto new things, expanding and maturing his musical output into production and composition.

The result was the personal and spiritual album *Liberation*. "That was the type of mode I was in, like a deep spiritual quest," Hardson says. The music, performed live instead of produced by a DJ, matched the spirit of the lyrics. *Liberation* was mellow and soulful, bringing the music and the introspective lyrics together.

The sounds of Tre Hardson cross many musical boundaries. Hardson's style grabs on

to more than just the two turntables and a microphone standard of hip hop. He skillfully blends hip hop, soul and R&B instrumentals with vocal melodies and straightforward MCing. "It's getting out of the one-dimensionality of regular, standard hip hop and adding color to it," he says.

Hardson's next project, *SlimKid3's Café*, due out in 2006, has a lighter feel and is more about living life, having fun and trying not to

be preachy, Hardson says. "All I think about now is making happy music, just making good music."

His music and his methods are organic and grassroots, drawing from the local Los Angeles music scene and pulling in talent from the

music production classes he teaches. "Being able to make good albums, work with people I respect, that's all that matters to me anymore," he says.

EW

Tre Hardson with Fugawi, Alliance, 3 Blind Mics and Undermind

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Eugene's Musical Forecast: *Snow*

Curt Kirkwood releases solo CD.

The Meat Puppets remain one of the most influential bands of the past two decades despite being generally unheard by the popular critics. One of the unluckiest heroes to emerge from the fabled SST record label roster during the early 1980s, the band was fronted by guitarist/vocalist Curt Kirkwood, brother of bassist/vocalist Cris Kirkwood, and rounded out by drummer Derrick Bostrom.

They were all wickedly smart, a little screwed up from the Phoenix heat, and maybe they took too much acid sometimes, but that made them just like many of their fans. So their thrashy mix of country punk and weird psychedelic improvisations didn't seem out of place. And the fact that they put out a couple albums that were just so-so didn't chill anybody's enthusiasm for them.

The Meat Puppets toured non-stop for about 20 years. Then in 1993 some chap named Kurt "with a K" Cobain invited Curt "with a C" Kirkwood and his band to perform on the *In Utero* tour. Curt "with a C" also strummed with Cobain onstage for an acoustic performance of three Meat Puppets' songs for "MTV Unplugged." Soon Curt struck out on his own as lineup changes threatened the Meat Puppets' survival. (Cris Kirkwood, who has fought a long battle with drug use, was jailed last year for assault, so any Meat Puppets reunion seems unlikely, but Kirkwood's press says he "won't shut the door" on the idea.) Flash forward to now and Kirkwood is touring behind his solo debut, *Snow*.



The Meat Puppets toured non-stop for about 20 years. Then in 1993 some chap named Kurt "with a K" Cobain invited Curt "with a C" Kirkwood and his band to perform on the *In Utero* tour

Just as Meat Puppets' songs traverse many varied soundscapes, *Snow* truly seems timeless and unbounded by genre limitations. Kirkwood gallops through pop, shuffles through country waltzes, time-warps through folk/jazz jams and throws in great guitar work throughout the almost entirely acoustic album. His insightful lyrics again take center stage, reflecting the profound, the personal and the peculiar. Kirkwood's vocal arrangements are less rock-oriented and more singer/songwriter style, giving his unpretentious voice more intimate impact. "Movin' On" shines with a back porch country feel, almost like a traditional Appalachian tune. "Box of Limes" is easily the weirdest tune on the CD and one of the most rockin'. He croons about "toothpick babies made of wax," roses, moonbeams and boxes of limes. I don't get it lyrically, but I don't have to interpret his skewed psychology to appreciate his songcrafting skill. — *Vanessa Salvia*

Curt Kirkwood, Dan Jones

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Fresh Ink

Eugene's Northwest Royale signs record deal.

The ink on the contract was barely dry when Northwest Royale's drummer, Chris Phillips, called *EW* last month to tell us the band had just signed a record deal with the New York-based indie metal label Rock Ridge Music. But because the band was still hammering out the final details, it wasn't until this week that we could make that info public.

It's big news for the band's five members who all quit their jobs last summer to go on tour full time, making the band their top priority. Rock Ridge is a relatively new label but has distribution through Warner Brothers. "They're going to give us the promotion we need to get the album out all over the U.S.," Phillips said.

They've worked out a good deal with the label: The copyrights for any albums they put out on Rock Ridge revert back to the band after four years, and they're not committed to doing a certain number of albums with the label. "If we had interest from a major label tomorrow, we could pursue that," Phillips said.

Notorious for their constantly-changing cast of characters, the only two members of five-year-old Northwest Royale who've remained the same are the founders, lead singer and guitarist Colt Williams and Phillips. After the first few months of touring, roadie and backup vocalist Ethan Haskell left the band, and just a week ago, keyboard player and percussionist Blake Owens, who had quit prior to the 2005 summer tour, rejoined.

So far the newest member, guitarist Travis Zering, has found a good match in NWR and Phillips said everyone is really into the new music they've been writing. "The new songs just kick ass," he said. "We've locked ourselves away for weeks writing these songs. Now that Travis is writing songs with us, he's having a huge influence, and the stuff he's writing with Colt is just insane." **EW**

Making Melody

From the Kennedy Center to Eugene

Sometimes you can throw the strangest things together and they just work. Bananas and peanut butter for example. That's what seeing Larry Pattis playing at the Oregon Wine Warehouse is like.

It's not a music venue. The focus is theoretically supposed to be on the food and wine. It's a venue where normally you'd hire an OK musician so your customers have some pretty music playing in the background. But when Pattis is playing, there's nothing background about it. And the customers, who turn their attention to him as they absentmindedly sip their wine, seem to get the fact that Pattis isn't your ordinary background bar musician.

And while the Oregon Wine Warehouse isn't the Kennedy Center, where Pattis has performed, his melody-driven finger-style guitar grabs your attention. He's lived in Eugene three years but spends most of his time playing in other towns and cities across the country. Now that he's found a good synergy at the Oregon Wine Warehouse, (check it out if you've never been there), you actually have a chance to see him.

"My most creative time is around 6 or 7 in the morning,"

he said as he packed up following a gig in mid-November. "I sit down and play and allow a melody to come out. If there's something about that melody that I feel deep

inside, I take that and work on it to make it go somewhere, to fill in the nooks and crannies."

He lets those melodies play through his head for weeks, sometimes months, sifting through the notes, pulling out the threads of a song. "It might take me six months to finish," he said. "It might take me two or three years to have enough music for another album. I'm not prolific, but that's OK with

me. Because it's about quality not quantity."

The end product is worth the wait. Pattis creates melodies that tell stories; that move forward then double back; melodies that are at once calm and beautiful like water flowing over rocks, and thick with emotion. His songs have distinct sections, like chapters. Live he's also a storyteller, explaining some of the songs, giving them context and allowing the listener to connect on an even deeper level. It's beautiful, delicate stuff. — *Melissa Bearns*



Larry Pattis
6-8 pm, Friday,
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Suffra-what?

A band like **Suffrajett** could only have come from New York City. That place with all its bright lights and underground trains has so many artists shamelessly mixing genres and reusing classic styles.

And Suffrajett's no different. Nope. They just get on stage, play their catchy brand of punky, female-led rock 'n' roll and don't seem to care that they don't sound like anyone else today. Whatever!

The band's latest release is a self-titled five-song EP on Giant Step Records that offers a taste of what they're currently working on for next year's full-length release. It's kind of like Joan Jett fronting the Ramones – fast paced, sassy vocals over guitar-driven rhythm.

The EP starts out with a party track called “Mr. Man” about one of those crazy girls-night-outs that always go down in NYC. Some bars there stay open ‘til the sun comes up so it's probably true. Then there's “Shake Your Heart,” which is a quieter, lovey song that tones down the girl power and offers a glimpse into the tattooed heart of the indie rocker.

The latest release is too short but at least it's original – in a style-borrowing, reused track jack-et sort of way. Suffrajett opens for Bob Schneider at 9 pm Thursday, Dec. 8 at the WOW Hall. \$12 adv/\$14 dos. – *Danny Cross*

Andrew Bird Gets the Worm

Think whistling is only for passing hours of manual labor and hailing taxi cabs? Well, we're sorry to say, you're wrong again. There's an International Whistler's Convention every year in Louisburg, N.C., that elects the world's best whistlers to its Hall of Fame. There are even musicians out there who cut entire records using only their puckered lips.

As sad as it is, no hall of fame whistlers are performing in Eugene any time soon. But luckily for you, a talented whistler (with a self-described unusually shaped tongue) will be in our midst. He is **Andrew Bird**, and besides his harmonic whistling he's also a violinist by trade and one of the country's most hyped singer/songwriters.

Formerly of the Squirrel Nut Zippers, Bird chose solitude over swing and spent months in his

family's suburban Chicago barn recording his latest album *The Mysterious Production of Eggs*, which has received excellent reviews in *The New York Times* and *Entertainment Weekly*.

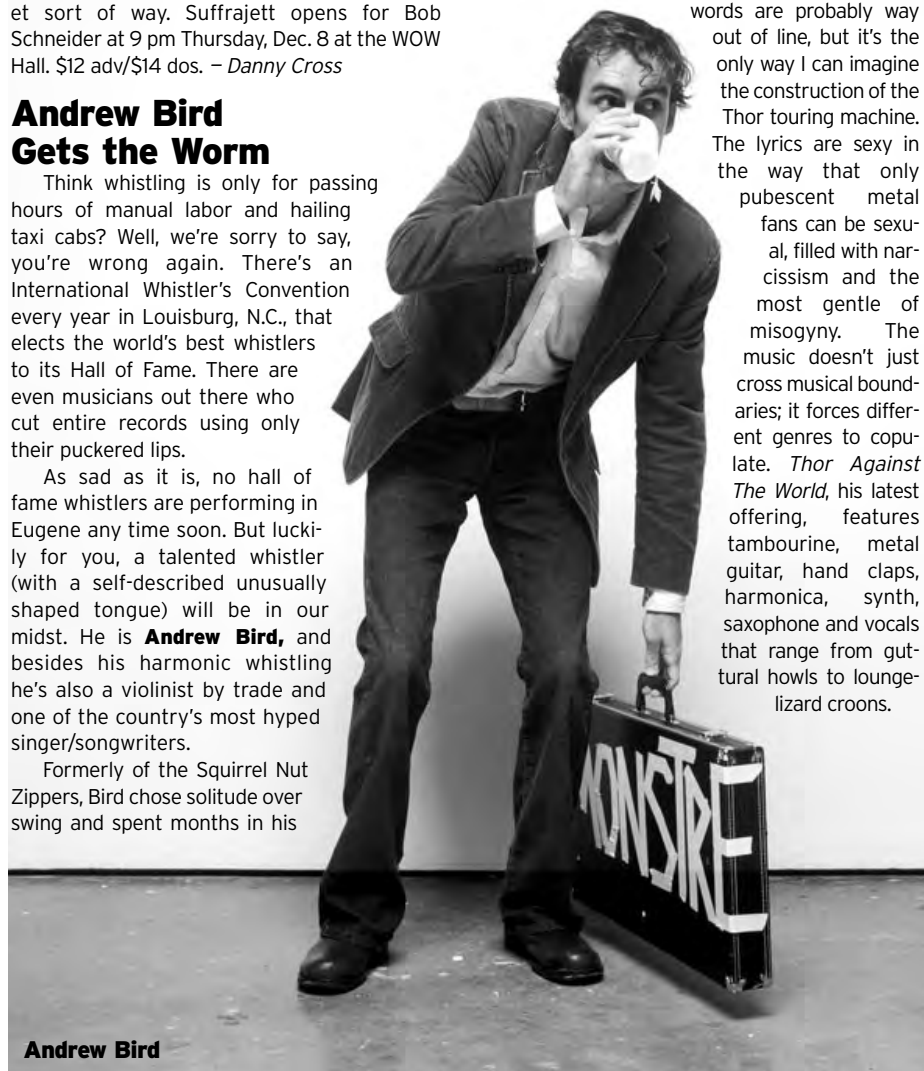
The title is a metaphor for the creative process, and Bird no doubt has a few eggs of his own. He plays most of the instruments on his album (sans drums) and uses a digital sampling pedal in his live performances when he's not switching between the violin nestled against his neck, the guitar slung over his shoulder, his warm lyrics or precise whistling.

Andrew Bird opens for Nickel Creek 8 pm Friday, Dec. 9 at the McDonald Theatre. \$22 adv./ \$25 dos. – *Tim O'Rourke*

Thor is so awesome, seriously

I cross my fingers as I write this, and hope I don't get a stern letter from **Thor's** lawyers, but I'm pretty sure Thor spent much of his teenage years masturbating in front of a mirror while KISS played on his stereo. When he ran out of KISS records, he stole into his mom's bedroom for some Neil Diamond albums.

My potentially libelous words are probably way out of line, but it's the only way I can imagine the construction of the Thor touring machine. The lyrics are sexy in the way that only pubescent metal fans can be sexual, filled with narcissism and the most gentle of misogyny. The music doesn't just cross musical boundaries; it forces different genres to copulate. *Thor Against The World*, his latest offering, features tambourine, metal guitar, hand claps, harmonica, synth, saxophone and vocals that range from guttural howls to lounge-lizard croons.



Andrew Bird



Stairway Denied

For all that is lacking in the music and the lyrics of Thor, there's something to take its place in the live Thor show. Bricks are smashed on studly Thor's chest. Manly Thor bends solid steel between his teeth. Thor the Conqueror destroys a hot water bottle with his lungs. And that's awesome, just as I imagine a KISS/Neil Diamond duet would be.

Thor plays with My Serpentine and Rock Scarlet 9 pm Friday, Dec. 9 at John Henry's. \$5. – *Jef Stout*

Let the Led out

No, they don't dress like the band; no, they don't have fascinatingly horrendous drunken brawls that make E! Top 100 lists; and no, they don't play “Stairway to Heaven.” They are **Stairway Denied**, an awesome Led Zeppelin tribute band that calls Corvallis home, and they are rocking into Eugene this weekend.

The group consists of vocalist Noah Stroup, guitarists Dylan Nelson and Curtis (no last name provided), bassist Dusty Stallings, and drummer Chris Harver. It was Stroup and Harver, along with a former member, who started searching for a bass player to get their tribute band off the ground. Almost as soon as they did, the hometown crowds responded with enthusiasm.

It is easy to see that these boys are no college band singing about unrequited love for the girl who sits two rows up in Bio 101. They play time-tested rock, creating instant electricity from the moment they take the stage, and if you close your eyes it's really Jimmy Page et.al.playing just for you.

It must be understood that these guys are not mocking the music, they aren't impersonating the band, and they will never be recording an album of Led Zeppelin. They just want to rock. According to Harver, they are also “Really attractive, smart, and good looking,” and that pretty much says it all. So, if you're looking for a

hot musician to hook up with, or you just need a little more Zeppelin in your life, head to Quackers Saturday. There's no cover, so no excuses. Spend an evening with these boys, you'll thank me in the morning.

Stairway Denied play 9 pm Saturday, Dec. 10 at Quackers. Free. – *Alana Yankus*

Wait, wait, wait ... it's Eric McFadden

It's hard to believe that Eric McFadden is associated with people from Widespread Panic. I shudder to imagine the bar tab that would accompany a night subjected to that jim-jam racket. But the **Eric McFadden Trio** and its bassy, sinister rock sound is well worth a few \$5 gin and tonics.

The trio, McFadden's vocals and guitar with James Whiton on the stand-up bass and Paulo Baldi, formerly of Cake, on drums, is most often compared to Tom Waits. The comparison is valid enough to be repeated, with slower, deep rhythm guitar and creepy leads going along with a story-telling lyrical approach. But McFadden's voice is more like an angry, deep-voiced grunge rocker than the satanic Russian that Waits imitates.

The band's newest album, *Joy of Suffering*, glides from the crunchier, Waits-esque tracks into faster, country sounds and on to noisier, apathetic diatribes. “The Ghost of Saint Patrick” touches on McFadden's frustration when he sings, “We wanna change the world but there's no time/ We want to celebrate but there's no wine/ We want you to please give us a sign/ The ghost of Saint Patrick's doing time.” There's an overall vibe on the album of “I know what's really going on here and this is what I think about it ... you jerks.” And it's quite refreshing.

So order up. We know you wanted a reason. The Eric McFadden Trio plays at 10 pm Sunday, Dec. 11 at John Henry's. \$3/\$5. – *Danny Cross*

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THURSDAY DEC. 8

BADA BING'S Family Karaoke w/ Jared the Karaoke Guy-6
BLACK FOREST Dank-10
BLUE LUNA Surftronics-9
COUNTRY SIDE The Zulu Alliance-8; Blues
COZMIC PIZZA Southern Cross-8; Acoustic classic rock
DIABLO'S La80s night-10; '80s and requests
DUCK INN Ben Coleman's Karaoke-9
EMERALD CITY COFFEE HOUSE Cribbage Game Night-6
JAXX Gaia Tribe feat. Dave D-Luxx & Andrew Mataus-10; House
JO FED'S Jo Fed's All Star Jazz Jam-9
JOGGER'S DJ Tekneek-10; Hip hop, R&B
JOHN HENRY'S '80s Night w/Chris, Jenn and John-10
LUCKEY'S Songwriters Forum-10
MAC'S Mac's & Mo's Jamm
OCTAVIO'S Christie/Croseevus
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
OVERTIME GRILL West Side Blues Jam-8
PERUGINO Old-time jam-7:30; Appalachian
ROCK 'N' RODEO Ladies' Night w/ DJs Jon-Michael & Tony T-9; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Happy Bastard, J Riley-9; Rock
SAM'S PLACE
 Bingo



LOS STRAITJACKETS AND THE WORLD FAMOUS PONTANI SISTERS BRING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE WOW HALL SUNDAY.

Night
TAP 'N' KEG DJ Rick-9:30; Hip hop
TAYLOR'S Ladies' Night w/ DJ Tekneek & Friends
TINY TAVERN Open Mic w/ Adam, Evil Eve & Jesse
VILLAGE INN Karaoke-9
WORLD CAFÉ The Keystoneers (CD release)-7
WOW HALL Bob Schneider & Band, Suffrajett-9; Rock

FRIDAY DEC. 9

BADA BING'S Rocket-9:30
BEANERY Craig Soreseth-7
BLACK FOREST Johnson Unit-10
BLUE LUNA Article Infinity & DJ Pristine-9
CLUB TSUNAMI DJ Tekneek & DJ Smuv-10; Old school vs. new school Hip hop
COUNTRY SIDE Bob Manning & Nashville West-9
COUNTRYSIDE PIZZA Music Alliance ShowBand-9
COZMIC PIZZA IAA Jamboree w/ Squankidonk & Friends, Halie Loren & more-9
CROW'S NEST Necryptic, Tormentium, Malphrenia
DIABLO'S DJ Gen.Erik & Supa J-10; Hip hop
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Natural Progression-10
EMBERS Michael Anderson Trio-9; Country, rock
EMERALD CITY COFFEE HOUSE Blue Road & Friends-7; Classic '60s music
JAZZ STATION Jackie-Su & Friends-7:30; Vocal jazz
JO FED'S Vega-9
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ DJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B, 80s & more
JOHN HENRY'S Thor, My Serpentine, Rock Scarlet-9
LAVELLE'S Gus Russell-5:30; Jazz piano
LUCKEY'S Varnish, quests-10; Rock
LUNA The Project-9; Blues jazz fusion
MAC'S West Coast Rhythm Kings-9:30; Jump swing
MCDONALD Nickel Creek, Andrew Bird-8
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
OREGON WINE WAREHOUSE Larry Pattis-6
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon-Michael & Tony T-9; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Jessie Marquez & Mike Denny, Karim Nagi & Turbo Tabla-8:30; Cuban jazz
SHER'S ELDORADO Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
SPIRITS Ozone Baby-9; Classic & new rock
SWEETWATERS Deb Cleveland Band-8:30
TAP 'N' KEG DJ Isaac-9:30; Retro
TINY TAVERN Uncle Stumbles-10; American psychedelia
TRACKSTIRS Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
VET'S CLUB DJ Mario Mora-9; Salsa
WOW HALL Reignition Vol. 11: Unknown Horizons, Stu's Shoes, Maculate, Avid-7:30; Rock
YUKON JACK'S Go 2 11-9; Rock

SATURDAY DEC. 10

AX BILLY Mike Denny-8
BADA BING'S Rocket-9:30
BEANERY Ricardo Cardenas-7



CHARLOTTE MARTIN PLAYS COZMIC PIZZA SATURDAY.

BLACK FOREST Kiki, The Mothers Anger, On the First Day ... They Were Kittens-10
BLUE LUNA Reggae All-Stars feat. DJ Kal-El-10
CHARLIE MAC'S DJ Dance Night-9
CLUB TSUNAMI DJ Tekneek-10:30; Hip hop, R&B
COUNTRY SIDE Bob Manning & Nashville West-9
COUNTRYSIDE PIZZA Flat Stanley-9; Jazz, blues, classic rock
COZMIC PIZZA Charlotte Martin, Chris Pierce, Andrew Paul Woodworth-4:30; Reebie Jar-8; Benefit for Navaho families
CROW'S NEST Grync, Selah P.R., Forrestal's Fall, Ailment, Burning Vienna
DIABLO'S DJ Sneakers-10; Hip hop
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Black Furies, Black Mamba and Bitch Machine-10
DUCK INN Ben Coleman's Karaoke-9
EMBERS Michael Anderson Trio-9; Country, rock
EMERALD CITY COFFEE HOUSE Stephan Mockli-7; Folk, jazz
JAKE'S PLACE Peter Giri-6
JAXX The Hounds-10; Funk, dance, reggae
JAZZ STATION The Blue Note 5-7:30; Hard bop quintet

JO FED'S Nicolette Helm Blues Band-9
JOE'S Ladies' Night w/ VJ Trey-10; '70s, '80s, '90s
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ VJ Ty-9:30; All-video Hip hop, R&B, 80s & more
JOHN HENRY'S Moot Davis, The Koozies, Admonitions-10
LAVELLE'S Gus Russell-5:30; Jazz piano
LONE STAR Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
LUCKEY'S The Emergency-10; Indie rock
MAC'S Bill Rhoades & the Party Kings-9:30; Blues
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
QUACKERS Stairway Denied-9; Led Zeppelin tribute band
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon-Michael & Tony T-9; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Curt Kirkwood (of the Meat Puppets), Dan Jones-9:30; Rock
SAM'S PLACE Ladies' Night w/ DJ Laura
SPIRITS Ozone Baby-9; Classic & new rock
SWEETWATERS Deb Cleveland Band-8:30
TAP 'N' KEG DJ Dana-9:30; Hip hop
WOW HALL 30th Anniversary WOW Hall Membership Party w/ Adam & Kris, Brett Estep, Samuel Rutledge, Dharmika & Leslie, Scott Franzen, Jair-7
YUKON JACK'S Go 2 11-9; Rock

SUNDAY DEC. 11

BLACK FOREST Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
BLUE LUNA Stone Cold Jazz-6
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA MOPAN membership meeting and gathering-6:30
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Texas Hold 'em-3; Kung Fu Karaoke-10
JAZZ STATION Willamette Jazz Society jam session-3:30
JO FED'S Mark Alan-8:30; Acoustic
JOHN HENRY'S John Henry's Broadway Revue w/ musical guest Eric McFadden Trio-10; Burlesque, variety
MULLIGAN'S Music jam/open mic w/ Keith Harrison
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
SAM BOND'S Guerilla Media Film Fest hosted by Shade-8:30
TAYLOR'S Texas hold 'em-5:30
VILLAGE INN Open Mic-8
WOW HALL Los Straitjackets and the World Famous Pontani Sisters Christmas Pageant feat. Kaiser George-8; Surf rock, burlesque

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MONDAY DEC. 12

BLACK FOREST Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-9
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE DJ Turbo & DJ Diablo-10; Funk, rock, requests
EMERALD CITY COFFEE HOUSE Eric Morton-7; Classic '60s music
JO FED'S Skip Jones-8:30; Hammond organ
JOGGER'S Karaoke w/ DJ Bond-9:30
MC SHANE'S Micro Movie Monday-after Monday Night Football
OCTAVIO'S Karaoke
ROCK 'N' RODEO Kick'n Karaoke-9
SAM BOND'S Chanteuse-6:30; Scrambled Ape-9; Ottoman cartoon jazz
TAYLOR'S DJ Tekneek & Friends
WOW HALL Gosling, Your Enemies Friends, StopSignGo, Kenzie-7:30; Rock

TUESDAY DEC. 13

BADA BING'S Paul Biondi & Friends-7
BLACK FOREST The Turntable Enabler-10
BLUE LUNA Open Mic
CHARLIE MAC'S Acoustic Tuesdays w/ Niel Henderson
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA Oregon Bus Project meeting-7:30
DIABLO'S Talent Showcase Open Mic-8
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Immortal Lee Country Killers-10
GOOD TIMES Rooster's Blues Jam-8
JAXX Drummers' Lounge-8:30
JO FED'S Natural Progression-



BLOWFLY RETURNS TO JOHN HENRY'S TUESDAY.

8:30
JOE'S Phat Tuesday w/ VJ Trey-10; Hip hop, R&B
JOGGER'S DJ Tekneek-10; Hip hop, R&B
JOHN HENRY'S Blowfly, MoneyShot, SoundProof-10
LUCKEY'S C-4 Sound Complex-10; Hip hop
MAX'S The Poetry Show-9; Open mic

MC SHANE'S Tricycle Races-9

THE O BAR Caught-in-the-Act Karaoke-9
OCTAVIO'S Ingredients of Wollen

O'DONNELL'S DJS-B-Us: Tim-9

PEABODY'S Patrick & Giri-7:30;

Acoustic variety
PERUGINO Tango night w/ Andrew McCullough-7:30
QUACKERS Karaoke with Jon-Michael-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJ Tony T-10; Hip hop
SAM BOND'S Sam Bond's Bluegrass Jam-9
TAYLOR'S Karaoke
TINY TAVERN CD Club-7; Listen, share, discuss
WOW HALL David Krakauer's Klezmer Madness feat. Socalled-7:30; Klezmer w/ hip hop

WEDNESDAY DEC. 14

BADA BING'S Paul Biondi & Friends-7
BLACK FOREST Songwriters Showcase w/ Justin Ray & The Acoustic Monk-10
BLUE LUNA Peter Giri & the Alliance Band-9
CHARLIE MAC'S Karaoke-9
COUNTRY SIDE DJ Jeff Richey-9; Hip hop & ladies' night
COZMIC PIZZA Reuben Shorten & Gene Newbold-6:30
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Texas hold 'em-7
EMERALD CITY COFFEE HOUSE Open Mic Acoustic Jam-6
FATHOMS Karaoke w/ Jared-9
JAXX Pub Quiz-7
JO FED'S Jon Fiori & Friends-8:30
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ DJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
JOHN HENRY'S DJ Kal El vs. DJ Tekneek-10; Reggae vs. hip hop
LUCKEY'S Reeble Jar-10; Jam funk
MAC'S Christie & McCallum-8
MULLIGAN'S Music jam/open mic w/ Keith Harrison
OCTAVIO'S Deacon Jack
PANDORA'S BOX Strip-e-o-ke-9
PERUGINO Irish jam-7:30; Celtic
QUACKERS Blues Jam-8:30
SAM BOND'S Wellsville, Al Rivers-9; Americana

THE IMMORTAL LEE COUNTY KILLERS PLAY THE DOWNTOWN LOUNGE TUESDAY.



SHER'S ELDORADO Karaoke w/ Luke-9
STACY'S COVERED BRIDGE Open Mic Night w/Ron O'Keefe-8:30
TAP 'N' KEG Tricycle Races-9
TINY TAVERN DJ Secret Hippie's Punk Rock Jukebox-9
WOW HALL Tre Hardson w/ Fuqawi, Alliance, 3 Blind Mics, Undermind-9; Hip hop

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FR Microcosm-10
WE Dan Bregar-7:30

IOVINO'S RISTORANTE
 126 SW 1st St. • 738-9015
FR DJ Cheez-10:30; Smooth beats
SA Jon ten Broek Acoustic Trio-8
WE Poetry Slam w/ Michael Faris-9:30

PLATINUM NIGHT CLUB
 126 SW 4th
TH & SA DJ Hes-9
FR Knockout John, Fusion Ball, 12 Gauge Fuse-9:30; Metal
SU No Limit Texas Hold 'em Tournament-5:30
MO Karaoke night w/ Patches-9
TU Ion w/ DJ Marc-9
WE No Limit Texas Hold 'em Tournament-5:30; DJ Tai Peterson-9

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FR Jeremy Griffin-10
SA Camp 3-8

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All About the Ladies

A...My Name Is Alice: Arrive ready to laugh.

Cottage Theatre presents *A ... My Name Is Alice*, a lively, funny, sometimes bawdy, all-girl musical review comprising skits, monologues, dance numbers, poems and music covering a range of themes that capture the female experience. From love, relationships, dating, painful break-ups and the blues, to guilty pleasures, friendship, career choices and aging, the multi-talented five-woman cast presents 24 musical numbers and scenes.

On a simple set and using minimal, interchangeable props, the cast opens with "All Girl Band," which incorporates a recitation of the old childhood jump-rope alliteration rhyme and celebration of rhythm and sisterhood for which the play is named. From there, the audience is treated to a roller-

coaster ride of smart, comical and poignant themes designed to induce laughter as well as pull at the heartstrings.

Some of my personal favs were comedic sketches such as "Pretty Young Men" performed by Becky Hope, Miriam Major and

A lively, funny, sometimes bawdy, all-girl musical review

Nikki Pagniano, a short skit about three "shy" women whose inhibitions bust loose at a male burlesque show. Kara Churchill's dis-

turbingly funny monologue about breaking up with her boyfriend in "Demigod" is also excellent, as is Miriam Major's flamboyant persona in "The French Song." Caroline Cramer puts in a great performance in "Trash," where she dreams of living the life of a heroine in a trashy novel, and Nikki Pagniano's over-the-top poetry readings in the "For Women Only" series are hilarious.

My only criticism of the show lies in the sentimental solos. Though beautifully performed, they didn't work well as stand-alone pieces, only because it was difficult to fully relate to them without some sort of background context. Still, *A ... My Name Is Alice* is well worth a drive to Cottage Grove. Men and women alike will enjoy and appreciate the top quality performances put forth by this abundantly talented cast.

Performance are Dec. 9-11 and 16-17. Buy tickets at www.cottagetheatre.org/tickets or call the box office at 942-9195. **EW**



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Drimys have colorful stems.

Shrubs for Tubs

Evergreens in pots can lift your winter spirit.

Now that you have cleared away the frost-nipped, rain-soaked container plants from your patio, balcony or doorstep, is there anything left to look at? Even one winter-resistant pot with something green in it can be a lot better than nothing. Gardening may be less appealing at this time of year, but putting something fresh in a pot to perk up your entryway can be done in the comfort of the garage. While you are at it, why not pot up one or two extras to give away as gifts?

With what seems to be a growing awareness of the potential for year-round containers, garden centers are offering more plants than ever with fall and winter appeal. There are several herbaceous plants that will make it through the winter looking respectable, and some will even bloom, especially with a little shelter from the elements. Evergreen shrubs, though, are the real stars of the winter pot garden, and they add height, substance and background greenery to summer arrangements, too. With that in mind, I like to plant a few things that will, with occasional repotting, live contentedly in pots for several years, growing more imposing over time.

The conventional image of a potted evergreen is neat and formal, but there are many choices for a more relaxed look. Boxwood and bay are classic and both can be clipped or not. If you think you don't like boxwood, check out Korean box (*Buxus microphylla*): the same small, glossy leaves on a looser grower, almost impossible to discipline into a ball. Camellias and bay trees are great for larger spaces. Big ones are expensive, but you can, of course, raise your own from a pup. Evergreen privet and super-dark green Portugal laurel are other options for a really big tub plant.

Coniferous evergreens come in a huge range of shapes and foliage colors. Blue Lawson false cypress, gray columnar junipers and Italian cypress, green or gold, are all naturally upright and formal. Arbor vitae are a bright and cheerful green and relatively inexpensive in large sizes. Spruces are stiff, prickly and mostly pyramidal, great for supporting a string of lights. Pines and Hinoki false cypress are less formal in structure, and just about everything I've mentioned has

squatter, bun-shaped variants for contrast. Cruise a few nurseries and see what suits your purpose. Bloomers is especially good for this, stocking many evergreens in a range of sizes.

A big, vigorous grower confined to a tub will demand frequent food and water and regular re-potting or root-pruning to keep it looking good. Naturally small plants and dwarf varieties are a little easier to maintain. Some plants are such demure growers that you can leave them undisturbed in the same pot for years, pruning lightly and feeding sparingly. *Drimys* (or *Tasmannia lanceolata*, available from Bloomers Nursery, has small, dark green, leathery leaves on attractive red stems and petioles. I love this little Aussie shrub for its tolerance of drought and a wide range of light conditions.

I've had a compact version of true myrtle (*Myrtus communis* 'Tarantina') in a pot on my deck for several years. Spring pruning removes winter-damaged foliage and produces a flush of new growth that bears adorable fuzzy white flowers from midsummer onward. Like bay, this is a Mediterranean shrub that appreciates the protection of a spot near the house. Other non-coniferous alternatives include hebe and evergreen daphnes such as *Daphne retusa*, currently available from Down to Earth. Be careful not to over-water it!

Use weather-proof pots and tubs for shrubs that you plan to keep outside year round: oak wine barrels, redwood or cedar tubs, concrete or glazed ceramic pots all last for years outdoors. Whatever the container, ensure it has adequate drainage holes, and don't place it directly on soil, where ice may block the holes. Start with a container that is not too big for the plant: a well rooted, one gallon nursery plant can go in a 2 or 3 gallon pot, but might become waterlogged in a pot much bigger than that. Re-pot every one to two years, either moving up to a bigger pot or shaving off enough of the root mass to fit in the old pot with room all around for new soil. I usually do this in spring. **EW**

Rachel Foster of Eugene is a garden consultant. All About Gardens, a selection of her EW columns, is available from local bookstores and garden centers. She can be reached at rfoster@efn.org

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT of the State of Oregon, for the County of Lane. In the Matter of the Estate of Amy Louise Tressler, Deceased. Case No. 50-05-22496, Notice to Interested Persons. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them with vouchers attached to the undersigned personal representative at 320 North Main St., P.O. Box 457, Brownsville, Oregon, 97327, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative: Jonathan Tressler, at 320 North Main St., P.O. Box 457, Brownsville, Oregon 97327. 541-466-5777. Dated and first published, 8 December 2005, Jonathan Tressler, Personal Representative.

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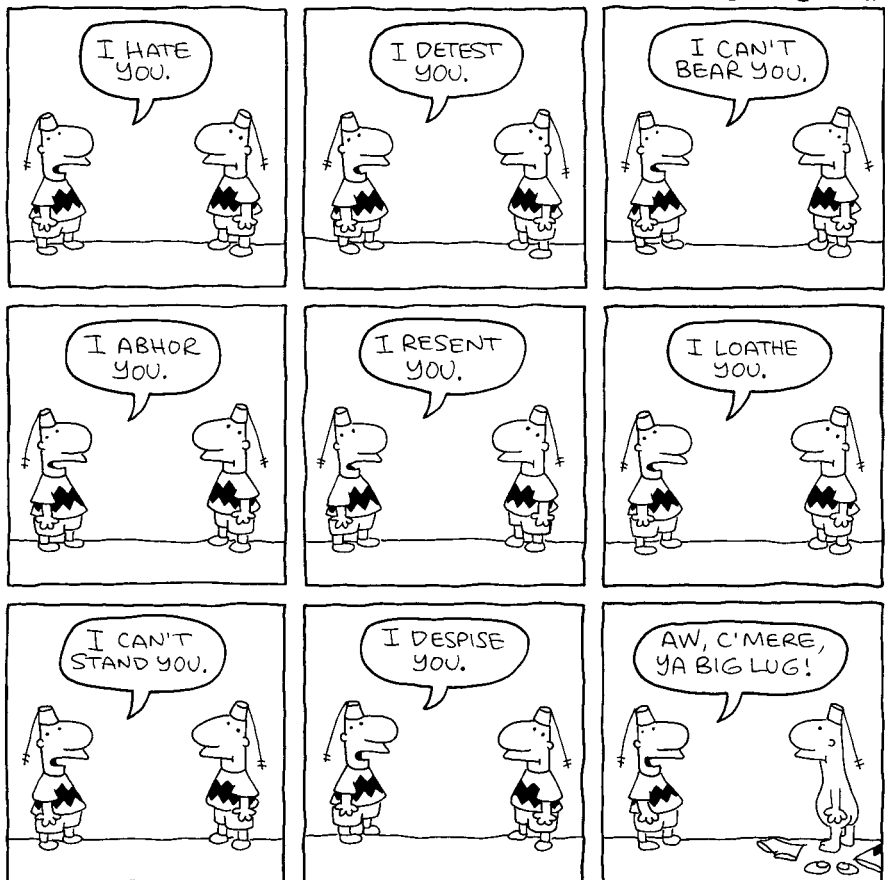
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	4			9		5	
9	7				8		3 1
		5		4		8	
	8						
4		2				6	7
						1	
		4		8		9	
3	2		4				7 6
	9			5			4

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once. There is only one solution. Good Luck! Stumped? Visit www.sudokuplace.com for a puzzle solver.

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jonesin' crossword By Matt Jones

"Risk-y Business"

- Threats and comments across the board

Across

- 1 Mythical knot that's difficult to untie
- 8 ACLU's concern
- 11 "The Price Is Right" network
- 14 "___ is only a bench covered in velvet" (Napoleon)
- 15 "Hollywood Squares" win, maybe
- 16 Bullfighting cheer
- 17 Prodding for a player in Africa who's moving too slow?
- 19 Button on VCRs, but not DVD players
- 20 DeLuise who costarred often with Burt Reynolds
- 21 Cranked up the Zeppelin and danced, maybe
- 23 With 69-across, threat from a player planning to attack Alaska from the southeast?
- 27 Thingamajig
- 28 Generic-brand
- 31 Feelings of boredom
- 35 CD-___
- 36 Threat to invade Indonesia?

- 42 Boob
- 43 ___ del Fuego
- 44 Sneaker company founded by two European immigrants in 1966
- 48 "Ditto"
- 52 Stalling phrase from a player who might be attacking from Japan?
- 56 Letter for letter
- 58 Dawn goddess
- 59 "Dig in!"
- 60 Warning from a player with armies massed in Siberia?
- 64 What tree rings denote
- 65 Towering former NBA player Manute
- 66 Boxing arbiter
- 67 On the pro side
- 68 Snoopy ___-Cone Machine
- 69 See 23-across

- 3 Cuban ballroom dance: var.
- 4 ___ Everett Koop (former surgeon general)
- 5 Perfect test paper marking
- 6 Wingnut Coulter
- 7 ___ Modelo (Mexican beer brand)
- 8 Pioneering company behind "As Seen on TV" products
- 9 Tackled
- 10 Site of South African riots in 1976
- 11 Like some arteries
- 12 Cheese with Buffalo wings
- 13 Splinter group
- 18 Solar plexus socking noise
- 22 When repeated, meal for the pets
- 24 Pre-H.S., maybe
- 25 Blemish from not using a coaster
- 26 ___'clock (when some local news starts)
- 29 Barnyard noise
- 30 Big-eyed bird
- 32 Dallas/Fort Worth sch.
- 33 Kamoze who sang "Here Comes the

- Hotstepper"
- 34 Enclosure with a manuscript, for short
- 36 NYSE unit
- 37 "___ for Innocent" (Kinsey Millhone mystery)
- 38 Nervously excited
- 39 Electrical power network
- 40 Perry Mason creator ___ Stanley Gardner
- 41 Soapy mineral
- 45 "___ Mine" (George Harrison autobiography)
- 46 Show that's had Clay Aiken, Matthew Perry and Dick Van Dyke as guest stars
- 47 Stone on the screen
- 49 Free-swinging Ruben
- 50 Loves to death
- 51 Emphatic response
- 53 Author Calvino
- 54 Zero
- 55 British term for pantry that sounds more like a yellowy color
- 56 Maple or oak
- 57 "Aladdin" parrot
- 61 Abbr. in want ads denoting fair hiring
- 62 Show that ended in 2005, to fans
- 63 "___ the ramparts we watched..."

©2005 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com) For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. Reference puzzle #232

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S JONESIN' CROSSWORD

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L	O	V	E	H	U	R	T	S	E	R	A
E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R	S	V	O	I
N	O	N	E	A	M	Y	S	A	N	D	A
U	S	A	P	A	L	E	A	L	E		
D	I	A	G	N	O	S	I	S	M	U	R
U	N	C	H	I	C		N	A	M	E	
G	E	T	Z		K	I	T	T	I	D	O
A	D	R	I	E	N	N	E	B	A	R	B
M	O	O	N	L	I	T		O	V	A	
B	U	L	L	E	T		S	D	I	C	R
E	C	L	A	T		C	A	U	S	E	L
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Science writer Carl Sagan liked to say that "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." He often invoked that idea in his crusade to debunk theories he considered outlandish, like the proposition that extraterrestrials are visiting our planet. While I think Sagan's measuring stick is usually quite useful, you should be careful about applying it too fanatically in the coming week. Surprising and marvelous possibilities are headed your way, and at least one of them will be very real but impossible for your rational mind to validate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In Sicily, the word "mafia" once meant beauty, charm, excellence, or boldness. In its modern usage, both in Italian and English, none of the old senses of the word have survived. It refers to organized crime, and conveys a sinister mood. I encourage you to identify a comparable thing in your own life, Taurus: a situation, influence, or relationship that was formerly a blessing, but that has now degenerated into a source of darkness. Is there anything you can do to resurrect its original glory? If it's even remotely possible, now is the time you're most likely to accomplish it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): About 149 light years from Earth, astronomers have discovered a planet in a solar system with three stars. If you lived on that world, you'd regularly see three different sunrises, one each by a yellow, orange, and red sun. I think that happens to be an apt metaphor for your current state of affairs, Gemini. Several potent sources are competing to be your lodestar; you can't decide which one you want to be your well-spring of meaning. I'm not saying that's bad. In fact, it could be very interesting. But if you choose to keep indulging in this division of your attention, you will have to work hard not to become scattered.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Have you seen the TV show "Lost"? One of the tales it tells is about a character named John Locke, who has been confined to a wheelchair for years. When the plane he's riding on crashes on a Pacific island, he is not only unhurt, he recovers the use of his legs. The accident itself is somehow the mysterious cause of the miracle. I predict that you will be the beneficiary of events that have a metaphorical or mythic resemblance to Locke's story. Luckily, the triggering experience will be nowhere near as scary or dangerous as Locke's. And while the resulting transformation may also be less spectacular, it will fix a knotty problem or restore a lost capacity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have gone through feline phases before, Leo, but your current resonance with cat-like energy is extraordinary. I wouldn't be surprised if you felt desires to undulate when you move, scratch furniture, sleep more than usual, rub yourself against people you love, act downright inscrutable, and get lots of high-quality alone time. I also suspect you'll need to find a way to express a pressing urge to hunt. My advice? You might want to seek guidance in some of those horoscope books for cats, like *Cat Astrology* by Michael Zullo or *Starcats* by Helen Hope.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): To convey the dirt simple oracle you need to hear, I'm going to steal a line from the poet William Kulik: "You can't *get it* because you've already got it." In other words, Virgo, your only hope for enjoying the lovely experience you're wistfully fantasizing about is to register the fact that the lovely experience is available to you right now. It's already yours for the taking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dear Rev. Brezsnay: I had a dream that I was inside a drawing by M.C. Escher. Every time I reached the top of a stairway I found myself again at the bottom of the same stairway. I couldn't tell which way was up and which was down. Depending on how I turned my head, the sky was above me and full of swimming fish or it was below me and full of flying birds. I kept seeing a snake swallowing its own tail. What does it all mean? -Puzzled Libra." Dear Puzzled: I believe your dream points to three experiences that a lot of

Librans are having right now: 1. Opposites are not only starting to attract; they may even be flowing into each other. 2. Beginnings and endings are not merely overlapping; they may both be contained in the same situation. 3. An influence now entering your life has arrived here from eternity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): George III was King of England from 1760 to 1820. During the last years of his reign, he gradually became more and more insane, talking to himself for hours on end and addressing trees as if they were people. When he first began losing his mind, his servants and assistants decided they would try to make him feel more comfortable by acting crazy themselves. Their collusion with George's pathology is an extreme example of a situation that all of us are at risk of. Our associates and loved ones may fall into a rhythm of going along with our odd ideas and bad habits, encouraging us to continue doing what we probably shouldn't do. I think this could be a potential problem for you in the coming days, Scorpio. Your allies may not bust you or call your bluff, which means you'd better do it yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about the answers," wrote novelist Thomas Pynchon. Between now and the end of the year, Sagittarius, please gaze into a mirror and tell yourself that advice regularly. You can't afford to let anyone - authorities, experts, enemies, or even friends - set the ground rules or define the contours of your quest for the truth. Your driving passion should be to frame the unique questions that will lead you inexorably to what you need to know next. (P.S. The answers you receive will be wrong until you frame those crafty questions.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "If in the last few years you haven't discarded a major opinion or acquired a new one, check your pulse. You may be dead." So said the humorist Gelett Burgess, and now, just in time for your Shedding Season, I'm offering his advice to you. It's high time for you to get rid of all the old stuff you possibly can, including not only the major opinions that you've outgrown, but also mementoes that have lost their meaning, clothes that no longer match your self-image, and once-exciting adventures that have succumbed to numbing habit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Writing in November's *Esquire*, Chuck Klosterman described the National Football League as one of the most successful socialist institutions in the world. As evidence, he notes that rich teams in the biggest markets are required to share their revenue with poor teams in small markets. The league's best franchise in recent years, the New England Patriots, has won so many games because its star players have volunteered to accept reduced salaries, making more cash available for the team to assemble the best possible collection of second-line players. I recommend a similar approach to you, Aquarius. It's a propitious time to bring the NFL's brand of communalism to the group or business or tribe that's so important to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "There are two tragedies in life," said George Bernard Shaw. "One is to lose your heart's desire. The other is to gain it." If we satisfy our deepest longings, in other words, we lose our primary reason for living. We love to feel our yearnings so much that we're devastated if they're ever quenched. Or so the argument goes. But I'm here to tell you, Pisces, that you have a good chance of refuting this theory in 2006. I think you'll get exactly what you've wanted, and then thrive in the aftermath. A crucial key to this potential success story will be offered to you in the coming week.

My new book is available. It's called Pronoia Is the Antidote for Paranoia: How the Whole World Is Conspiring to Shower You with Blessings. More info is at www.freewillastrology.com

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Apts. for Rent

SECLUDED 1-BDRM, unfurnished. \$450/mo, 1st, last, \$125 dep. NS, NP. Cottage Grove area. 942-3165.

1-BDRM APT unit over house in quiet SE Eugene neighborhood. Seeking quiet eco friendly nonsmoker for nice, clean space. No pets. \$485/mo, 1st, last, dep. 686-1316.

455 W 12TH, studios, \$300-\$400/mo. 2-bdrm, \$550/mo. 4-bdrm, \$1,200/mo. Clean, great location. First, last, security. No pets, no smoking. Available Now. 870-2460.

UNIQUE, ITALIAN studio. Sunroom, sleeping loft, separate entrance in country eco home. Quiet living. NP, NS. \$425/mo. 344-2902.

S. HILLS co-housing community has apt. for rent. Env. conscious, spacious and friendly. Avail. Jan 1. 431-0699.

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Homes for Rent

SMALL LIGHT studio house with loft near downtown, river and bike path. Wood floors, gas stove, shared private yard/garden. No pets, no smoking. Available now. \$435/mo, 689-1738.

COUNTRY HOME 2-bdrm, 2-ba, very nice mobile. Close in, near Lorane, McBeth. View, quiet, extras. \$625/mo. NP, NS. 342-6493.

CUTE COTTAGE on 5 acres. One bdrm. with loft, out buildings, river skylights, woodstove. \$750/mo + utils. Extra \$100 for horse. Ready '06. 998-2604.

CLASSIC '20S house. 3-bdrm, 2-ba bungalow. Great location, close downtown, UO. Gourmet kitchen, large living room. Forced air gas heat. Laundry. Art studio, gas kiln. \$1,500/mo, lease. Adam, 503-944-9019.

2-BDRM DUPLEX, South Jefferson St. Living room wood floor, fireplace. Deck with view. Hookups, garage. Avail. now. No pets, no smoking. \$715/mo. 689-1738.

CLOSE-IN country surrounded by nature. 4-bdrm, 2-ba flat and office on 11 shared, organic acres. Big rooms, huge kitchen, views, quiet, wood/elec heat. No smoking, dogs. Winter special, \$925/mo. Security. 342-5027.

2-BDRM FARMHOUSE, 4.5 mi. south of Creswell. Room for a cat, chickens, goat, ? Up to one acre. Call Fran at 942-8882.

LOVELY, SMALL cabin 15 min south of Eugene. Skylight, clean, quiet, shared vegetarian kitchen in separate building, organic gardens. No dogs, smoking. Security. 342-5027.

LAKE DORENA charming country 2 story cottage. 1-bdrm +, appliances, balcony, patio, garden, gorgeous view. On 1,200 shared acres. NP/NS. \$575/mo + 942-2049.

Shared Housing

ROOM IN spacious house, with wooded yard and garden on quiet street in Ferry St. bridge area. Sunny HW floors, HS Internet, fireplace, W/D. Relaxed, mixed gender household. \$350/mo + 1/4 Utils 686-3337.

ROOM, \$325/MO. Spacious house, yard. W/D, easy bike and bus to campus. Vegetarian. NP. 520-6241.

\$450/MO, BILLS paid. Large room in quiet home with 2 dogs. Gay friendly, near bike paths, no cats. 541-225-7021.

LARGE ROOM and private bathroom in large condo in wooded area. Swimming pool, 3,000 books, fireplace, W/D, workshop. On 2 bus lines, one to UO; near shopping. \$395/mo + utils. Call Matteo at 543-0525.

SHARE TWO-BDRM House near campus and downtown. \$350/mo + utils. NP. Big backyard, garden space, hot tub. Call 501-3403 for details.

HUGE ROOM, very quiet, clean, safe, mature, balanced, much light, close, secluded, newer, NP, W/D. \$285/mo + share util. 344-1964.

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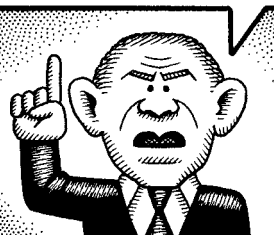

PIP & MO are beautiful long haired grey brothers. Pip is very talkative and Mo is very sweet. The boys would love to make your home merrier this holiday.
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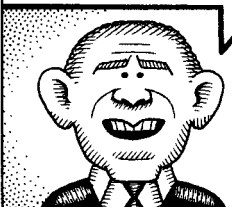
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LARGE ROOM avail in beautiful house on river bike path. Creative, fun, eco friendly, veggie, clean. \$425/mo + utils. Garage room also avail, partial trade. 345-3575.

ROOMMATE WANTED. Personal growth, green values, fun, clean, good communicator. Avail. Jan 1st. \$233/mo. 12th and Jeff. Heiko, 485-7245 or Kristine, 686-5122.

BEAUTIFUL ACREAGE 15 mi. NW. Garden river, cable, more! Nice room, outside smoke OK. NP. \$325/mo. Ready now. 998-2604.

DOWNTOWN PAD, close to UO. 3-bdrm, 1-ba, 2-story house. Vaulted wood ceilings, fireplace, retro decor. Cool, easygoing roomie. Paul, 285-0339.

PEOPLE WHO Care. Gentleman senior seeks roommate for private room in furnished Ferry St. Bridge house. \$450/mo incl cable, utils, laundry, parking. NP, NS. 541-686-1771, 541-913-6460.

ROOM WITH view, \$305/mo incl utils. W/D, woodstove, garden, deck, NS, ND, quiet and friendly. 541-302-2771, Janice.

ROOMMATE TO share apt. \$325/mo + 1/2 utils. W/D, NS, ND, must see! Call 221-9429, leave msg.

ROOM AVAIL. in SE Eugene, close to Amazon park and 30th, to share with female and cat. Quiet, safe, friendly, great storage, gorgeous kitchen, all amenities. \$350/mo + 1/2 utils. ASAP 343-0337.

ROOM IN S Hills, share with happy, clean, active, self aware morning people with prosperity mindset. 1 room with private entrance avail now. \$400/mo + 1/3 utils. 221-9171.

LAUREL HILL, simple, peaceful, quiet, organic garden, woodstove, cable, Internet, TV. Share with 2 others, dog, cat. Avail Jan 1. \$325/mo + NS, mature, 344-6361.

3 BDRM. 2 BA. home in SW Eugene. Wood floors, wood stove, patio, garden, yard. We are 29, professional, student, climber, surfer. \$375/mo. 521-1463.

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SOULMATES

SF, 43, 5'3", 125 lbs, brunette, happy, attractive, independent, deep, grounded. Values honesty, responsibility, humor and fun. Interests: movies, popcorn, cuddling, hot tubs, snow, sun, kids, beach, good food, picnics. ISO unattached, handsome handyman for LTR. Shared values and interests, loyalty, intimacy, and great chemistry. ☎ 7112

HIPPIE CHIC

Professional, highly educated, green woman, 36, looking for same in male, 30-42. Must be playful, fun, spiritual, love foreign films, Country Fair, dancing, international travel. Committed relationship. Mature NS, ND, NA. Write Blind Box: "Hippie Chic." ☎ 7081

ISO MAN LIKE SANTA

44 yo female looking for honest, loyal, caring man who wants relationship. I am humorous, loving, loyal. I am looking for love. ☎ 7073

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

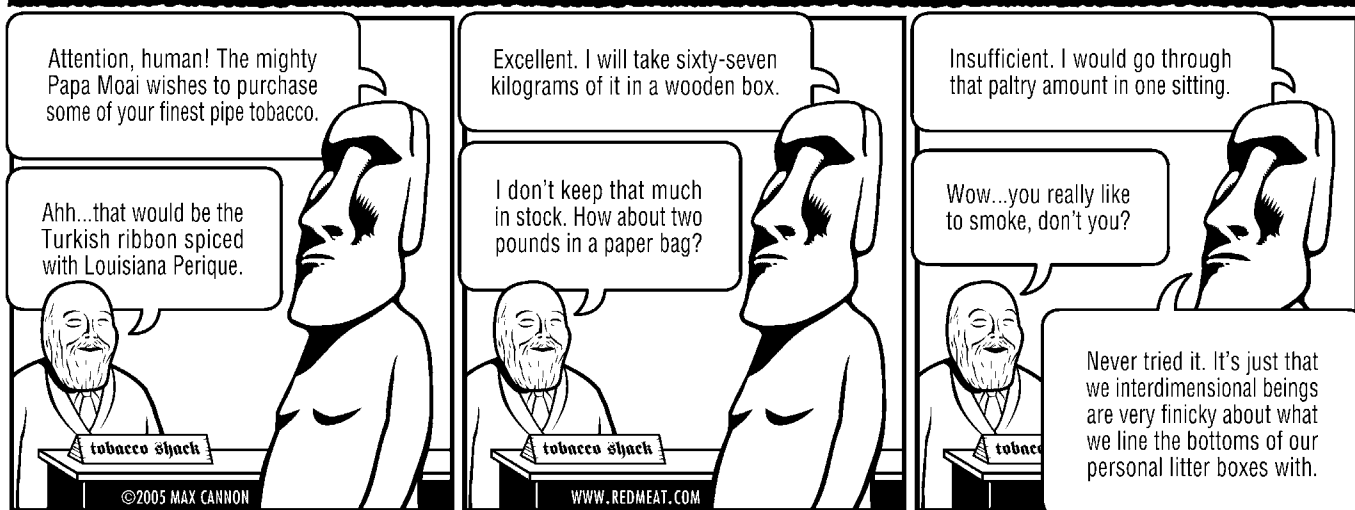
SWF 40s, seeks partner actively using Abraham-Hicks in daily life. What the bleep do we know? Joyful relationship possible. ☎ 7057

SEEK DANCE PARTNER

Really. SWPF, 50, seeks dance partner. Salsa, W.C. swing, ballroom, etc. Experience requested, please. Me? Some experience, ex dancer, quick learner. ☎ 7049

RED MEAT

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LOOKING FOR LOVE

Seeking M, 60-68, for soul mate and intimate friendship. ☎ 7107

SOUL DOCTOR

Brilliant, ravishing, modest, irreverent professional, 47. Seeks amusing muse and assertive, stable, generous "giver" for sacred and profane adventures. Meditation, practical helpmating and silliness. Empathic communication, laughing, crying, fun together. ☎ 6967

WANTED

Thinking, feeling, emotionally avail, men need only apply. Scorpio lady with a strong personality seeks gentleman 55-75. NS, ND for lifetime commitment. Want to travel, have fun, share laughter and tears. ☎ 6945

OREGON FIELD GUY'D

53 yo SWF ISO 50's SWM. Let's have a new adventure every week and explore each others fields. ☎ 6940

CALLING ALL NERDS

Any not kinky guys in Eugene? No left wingers, addicts, no sex, just get to know each other. LTR. 45-54. ☎ 6936

CASTLE SACMOG

Looking for a blogger by the name of Castle Codie. Please contact me. ☎ 6911

GO KICKER!

I'm back on the field, so why aren't you? Let's play in the mud together, then keep each other warm afterwards. I'll wash your back if you wash mine.



AVERAGE GUY

Mid 50's, average looking, active, lean build, warm, friendly, caring, communicative, growth oriented. Seeking semi professional SWF, 35-45 for friendship, walks, talks, laughs and hugs. Write Blind Box: "Average Guy." - ☎ 7115

SHY GUY ISO CUTIE

5'10", 180, 29. Looking for a Bif, 18-35, to hang with me and my girl. Herb friendly a plus. ☎ 7106

ISO SEXY WOMAN

Very hot, cute man, 40. ISO hot, sexy women, 29-40, who loves dogs and horses. Must be in shape and non judgmental. ☎ 7104

GET A CLUE!

52, disabled Vet, financially secure with great VA benefits seeks LTR with possible marriage. 18 to 40 with or without children. I desire to find that person that will carry on the legacy after I'm gone. Call for more info. ☎ 7086

GRADUATE S.H.K.

Experienced good, young looking 40ish, trim, 5'6". Self employed, devil may care, laissez-faire, sweet, honest. Seeks attractive rabble rouser for LTR mischief. Light smoke, drink, herb. Grrrr. ☎ 7079

SELF SATISFIED?

Self satisfied? Mmmm. Next time, can I watch? ☎ 7074

GUY WITH BIG HEART

SWPM 40ish seeking SWF sweetheart 25-45. Make my heart swell with delight and love, I can make yours tingle. Friends first, love the outdoors, movies, cooking for my mate. ☎ 7070

SENSITIVE NICE GUY

Easy going, intelligent, eclectic, spiritually evolved, romantic, sensuous, creative, nonconformist, financially stable, good looking. Seeking an attractive woman, 25-45, with similar qualities, who I can connect with on several levels. ☎ 7064

LOOKING FOR

A simple girlfriend for companionship. Me, mid 30s, 5'6", 135 lbs. I enjoy outdoor activities, travel, exercise and attaining a higher education. Above all, I really enjoy being introduced to new activities for which others take interest in. ☎ 7061

A DESPERATE MAN

I am an 18 yo man seeking sex and LTR with a hot woman in her 20s or 30s who has 32DD size breasts and a shaved private and has a house of her own and a car to drive. ☎ 7058

HOLLBACK GIRL

Fun Loving, SWM. Seeks SF for deep intellectual talks. Me: tall, caring, trusting chemistry, drama teacher. You: no baggage, honest, attractive. No STDs please. Your destiny awaits. ☎ 7056

DOCTOR OF LOVE!

Psychically oriented medicast in search of pretty patients. Mid aged, NS, ND needs 30s to 40s subject to relate to practice. Medicating and sensual. Call for appt. ☎ 7045

ISO: FLINTSTONE

I'm tired of men who can't eat a 96 oz. steak and lack callouses on their hands and feet. Are you oafish, yet sweet? Do you work hard and still have enough energy for "Bam Bam"? Maybe we can invite the Rubbles over for some "neighborly love". Meet me in the quarry.

BE TRUE

Motivated, sincere gentleman, 41, slim, fit, lots to offer the right one. HWP. Love my son, dog, art, food, music, laughter. Positive energy and enthusiasm required. MD, smoke OK and herb friendly. ☎ 6963

HONEST MAN

Tall, easy going, good sense of humor, likes movies, long walks, picnics, no smoking, drinking or drugs. Christian widower looking for relationship with 40-50 yr. old. ☎ 6954

SUNRISE DATES

New beaches, fresh mountain snow, car, RV trips or Silverbird. Let's go. Dancing? Under the sunset curtains, starts the show. Fit, 54, happy SWM ISO healthy, independent, inquisitive SWF, NS. LTR? ☎ 6953

SPIRIT OF A DANCER

Looking for my honest, loving, enjoyable and attractive, to me, partner. My interests include bridging varied cultures through dance, music, spirituality and immersing in nature's beauty. I, very alive in my very early 50s, body and spirit of a dancer! ☎ 6950

RARE GENTLEMAN

SWM, 49, active, athletic, kind, respectful, peaceful. Seeking SWF, 39-51, petite, HWP, athletic, active, fun, Christian, non smoking, non drinking. For dating, dining, hiking, tandem biking, movies, dancing, running, possible LTR. ☎ 6943

COUNTRY BOY

SWM, 28, looking for someone that likes to have fun and enjoy life. Likes to watch movies, dinner, outdoors, dancing, and cuddling. Need a good companion. ☎ 6932

SUGAR DADDY

Nice black man seeking middle aged white woman who likes sports and movies. ☎ 6931

FISHERMAN

I'm looking for some one who likes fishing, crabbing, yard sales. 60-65, female. ☎ 6906

HUGGABLE GUY

SWM, 57, 6'1", 240 lbs., huggable teddy bear, affectionate, outgoing, caring, walks the ocean. You: laughing, outdoors, good food and would like a teddy bear for the holidays. ☎ 6902



SAFE EXPLORATION

Single, bi curious, 44, attractive, clean, with complicated life. Seeking understanding, patient, discrete, bi curious for exploration. Not really into couples or serious politics. ☎ 7111

OUTDOOR, INDOOR

28 yo, bi curious, ISO friends to hang out with in the great outdoors, hiking, biking. And indoors, movies, etc. I am married, but want to meet some women. ☎ 7053

BI WOMEN'S GROUP

For women of all backgrounds 21 and over. Meeting the third Friday of each month. On going for over 15 years. No Men, Gays or TG/TS. ☎ 7043

TREKKER

Oldie, but goodie senior lesbian in mint condition seeks same for future long distance hiking in UK an Europe. In the meantime, let's get to know one another on local hikes or perhaps dinner and the theater. I like culture too. If you're 55 to 70ish with a great spirit of adventure, please write and tell me a little about yourself. Write Blind Box: "Trekker." ☎ 6934

COUPLE LOOKING FOR FUN

Couple looking for sexy, friendly, fun loving female to share all kinds of fun and affection. 22-38. Please be open minded and level headed. ☎ 6910

SPITE AND MALICE

Wanted, someone around 50 who likes to play cards, watch TV, work the crossword puzzle, take naps on the couch and loves cats. ☎ 6909



2 GM SEEK THIRD

2 GM, 30s, ISO guys, 20-55 yo, for hot threeways. Herb and porn friendly, open minded. Drinks first? Very discrete. ☎ 7108

NEED GUIDANCE

Me, mid twenties, independent, eccentric, enjoy art, botany, medicine, leather. Nervous, inexperienced. Need guidance. You, 20+, masculine, mature and gentle companion. Open minded, clean, and supportive. Cigar, herb friendly. ☎ 7084

WANT TO BE DOMINATED

Stocky built guy, early 30s, looking to have man to man action, as the bottom! Very serious! Age, race, looks unimportant! First timers and young guys a plus. ☎ 6970

FUZZIE WUZZIE BEAR

Fuzzie Wuzzie is a 45 yo bear. Fuzzie Wuzzie needs Bi/GM bear to Nair Fuzzie Wuzzie bare. Then dress Fuzzie Wuzzie as a she bear. So let's play if you dare. ☎ 6968

PIZZA MAN

When you get off of work at Papa John's, we should meet and see if 88 has what it takes to finish the race. ☎ 6903



FEMINE AND SEXY

Soft and sexy CD seeking long term live in relationship. Cook, clean and satisfy. ☎ 7063

EXPLORATION

MWM, mid 30s, straight. Seeking discreet and safe TV, TS, CD or GM with feminine demeanor, 18-25, B for first time exploration. I am over 6' and heavy set. ☎ 7044



FRIENDLY MARKET

Sat. 12/3 4:45pm. You, man in check out line who left on foot with two dogs. Me, red haired women, maybe with black hat, behind you in line. Did I imagine you looking at me and smiling? ☎ 7114

PUMPKIN SPICE

Sundance freezer aisle. You, blissful, rich flavor and creamy texture. Ran out before I had a chance to get to know you. Heard you're coming back soon. Dessert, my place? ☎ 7113

CAMR

I saw you punching holes. Now you've been seen. ☎ 7102

SNATAM KAUR KIRTAN

We danced and joined hands across the aisle during Snatam Kaur's Kirtan, 11/26/05. Attracted to your smile, your joyful and gentle spirit. Would like to meet again. ☎ 7085

GENESIS JUICE GUY

You are as beautiful as your juice. Do you make home deliveries? Can we kick it? ☎ 7082

WOMAN PISGAH JOGGER

You: jogging eastside trail Sunday afternoon, Jan 27th. Me: carrying a pack and trekking poles. We talked twice and have met before. Let's talk and meet some more! ☎ 7080

STALKING YOU

I saw your MySpace ad and you're a pretty rose. Your fondness for vegan apricot cookies caught my eye, so I started stalking you. I've got a feeling it's automatic. ☎ 7078

SUNDANCE FOODS

Water stop. I was freezing in a T-shirt, "it's slow but good." You, a strong arm and pretty blue eyes. For a unique friend, it's up to you, call. ☎ 7075

11/3 AT LUCKY'S

Jessica, met you at Lucky's. You were playing pool. We talked briefly at the bar. Saw each other later at John Henry's. Would like to meet again. - W ☎ 7071

KENDRA

I miss the kitchen dance. I love you! Jeff

LKN4 KEAGAN

Keagan you've gott to shop in Albany more often. You admitted to being addicted to buying jewelry. Made comment on the leopard print card. Bring the scarf princess. ☎ 7067

GREENACRES CHEVRON

11/19/05 Around 8:30. You, cute blonde, three rolls of candy and a lottery scratch it, PT Cruiser. Me, tried to give you two lottery tickets, bought Sierra Mist. We waved on my way out. Too shy to say anything. Please contact me. ☎ 7066

I LOVE YOU ALL!

Sorry if you feel me groping you on the bus, in the hallways, on the street ... I just love you all and can't keep myself to myself. - Creepy Guy.

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- ☐ Women Seeking Men
☐ Men Seeking Women
☐ Women Seeking Women

- ☐ Men Seeking Men
☐ Either/Or
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- ☐ I Love You
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Signature _____

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*A \$10 fee applies for any ads in the "I Love You" category or in the "I Saw You" category where the recipient has no intention of responding via EW's voicemail system.

Abbreviations: **A** Asian • **B** Black • **Bi** Bisexual • **C** Couple • **Ch** Christian • **D** Divorced • **F** Female • **G** Gay • **H** Hispanic • **HWP** Height/ Weight proportionate • **J** Jewish • **M** Male • **NA** No alcohol • **NA**m Native American • **ND** No drugs • **NS** No smoking • **P** Professional • **S** Single • **W** White • **Wi** Widowed • **ISO** In search of • **LTR** Long-term relationship

Participants in *Eugene Weekly* Personals must be 18 years or older. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should occur in a public place and participants should not divulge addresses. *Eugene Weekly* does not screen or investigate individuals who place or respond to personals ads and makes no representation as to the character of these individuals. *Eugene Weekly* will not be responsible for the consequences of any interaction. Not all voice boxes contain voice greetings.

11/18, HOT BLACK MAN
Standing at bus stop, 18th and City View. Me: red station wagon. Ours eyes met as I drove by. Are you the same man I saw at Jaxx after Damien Marley? Please call. ☎ 7060

GOOD ADVICE
You: black truck, red canopy. Me: blue van, no manners. You're right, thanks for the advice. ☎ 7055

SKINNER'S BUTTE
Rotary Shoot. You helped me to be a bad boy with your beautiful black hair and your clothes I want to tear. P.S. There are plenty more places. ☎ 7052

JOLLY RODGER THIEF
I made that flag! 4'x 6' taken from a 13th St. house. If you know someone with a newly acquired pirate flag, want to take part in a little reconnaissance with me? ☎ 7050

DRAGON
Fire spinning dragon with your knights and princess! You were all so hot! I love you all. Even Paris was hot! Kinda. ☎ 7047

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
I saw the "Support Our Troops" magnet on the rear of your vehicle and wanted to let you know I was unmoved by your shallow and hollow efforts of support. ☎ 7046

DISHING UP YUMMY
With new hair! Love it! You made us smile eating macaroons. Always be our girl? If you're a beanie and you eat beans, does that mean you're a cannibal? Your our favorite! ☎ 7042 (01/12/05)



SPRING VISIT
My wife and I are planning a trip in April or May to come to Eugene from St. Louis. Wondering if any kind person or people might have a backyard to crash. ☎ 7076

I NEED SOME FRIENDS
Desperately seeking someone who would actually enjoy discussing the ins and outs of Linux with a relative noob over a few beers. ☎ 7072

LET'S GO TO LA
Share ride to LA for Thanksgiving. Non smoking student needs ride to Los Angeles, CA to share thanksgiving feast with family and friends. Willing to share expenses. Leaving on or around Nov. 19th. ☎ 6956

RANDOM
SWF 40s. Date for floating world exhibit? Herbs and spices friendly. ☎ 6957

BACKPACKER FRIEND
Seeking companions for summer backpacking trip in the High Sierra. SWM, 62. Experienced backpacker, with a preference for long, 7-10 days, slow treks in timberline, and above, country. ☎ 6947

EXERCISE TOGETHER
Woman, 44, seeks woman only to share workouts, support, adventures for better health and weight loss. Exercise in Westmoreland area or beyond. ☎ 6935

NATURE GIRL
Down to earth F, 38, seeking F only for hiking, biking, snow shoeing, movies, live music. ☎ 6930

AMANDA
You called my "exercise together" ad and I accidentally erased it. Please try again on either ad. ☎ 6929

EXPAND!
Looking for like minded people to expand with me through experiences outside of my and your comfort zone in non sexual ways. Let's find ways together! ☎ 6905



IN THE LIFESTYLE
Are you in the lifestyle? Are you 45 or older? Are you clean, discreet and generally a nice person? Wanna party? If so, then check us out! ☎ 7110

ISO DOMINATRIX
Professional couple, alpha female, sub. male. ISO divinely dominant goddess to enrich our adventurous relationship with tales and tastes of torment. Discretion and limits always a first. Are you hungry? ☎ 7109

ISO CLEAN COUPLE
ISO clean couple, 29-39, with very sexy clean shaven wife and nicely hung husband who want to play part time with a very handsome man 180 lbs, 6'. ☎ 7105

SOFT HANDS
SWPM, 40s, well groomed, athletic, gentle to provide massage or intimate massage. ISO active playful woman with spirit and brains for discrete adventure. So much learning and life in touch. ☎ 7101

OPPOSITES ATTRACT
Male exhibitionist seeks female voyeur. Let's see what happens! ☎ 7062

WILLING FOR ANYTHING
SWM interested in F or BiM, FC for adult clean fun. I am SM, fit and attractive. Very uninhibited and willing for anything. ☎ 7100

A FANTASY
I am a fit younger male. Educated and secure. I am looking for two older professional females who may be interested in sharing some very discreet sexual encounters. ☎ 7103

SEEKING FWB
Yep. Seeking female friends with benefits. I really need a hormone boost. And I am generous. I might even qualify as a "Sugar Daddy," maybe. But! Then are you that "Sugar Momma" I seek? ☎ 7098

BACK IN THE SADDLE
The Roan Ranger and her cross dressing sidekick Pinto seek cowboy, 43+, who can stay past 8 sec. in the saddle. Both saddles broke, so be willing to ride both. No spurs. ☎ 7083

SENSUAL TEACHER
Physically fit good looking male ISO of mature woman, 30-45, for lessons in the art of tantric sex. Curious. Must send picture. LTR is a possibility but not required. ☎ 7077

DOMINA LOOKING FOR NEW TOYS
Seeking sissy boys, cash piggybacks and pathetic slaves. I'm Domina, I get a kick out of humiliating pathetic faggots while raping their wallets and robbing them of any last shred of self respect they may have left. I'm looking for new toys to play with in mind control. Serious slaves only. ☎ 7069

EXPLORE FANTASIES
Good looking, fit guy with pleasant personality, humorous, intelligent seeks open minded, slim attractive female who wants to explore and act out her wildest unfulfilled fantasies. The things you wouldn't even tell your friends. ☎ 7065

CAT'S PLAYTOY
Missed your voice at after party. This is blindfolded "teddybear" oral slave. Liked what you proposed in whispers these past few weeks. Your wish is my command goddess, no limits. ☎ 7054

POLYAMOROUS MAN
SWM, 45, fit, artistic and musical. I'm secure in my work and also have a business that provides a fair amount of outdoor adventure. I prefer commitment in a polyamorous context and prefer an intelligent, fit, sensual and spiritual woman, 30-50 for mutual exploration and growth, conversation and more. ☎ 7048

LEAVE EMAIL ADDRESS
VM #6898. Leave email address. ☎ 6946

MATURE HANDSPANKER
Mature guy 70, Portland, spansk OTK, bare guys under 35, under 5'9" under 150. Stats must be met. ☎ 7051

SHE MALES TO PARTY
Hi, SWBiM, 40 yo. Clean, gentle, sexy. Need to meet gentle sexy blacks and she male for hot times. Party friendly. Had three encounters, want another. ☎ 6969

NICE GUY
Woman who is sexually dominant and otherwise an equal partner. I'm 5'9", good looking, well built, intelligent, easy going, romantic, sexually submissive. Love to spoil and "please." Seeking LTR, though open. ☎ 6964

STRESS RELIEF GOOD
ISO mature woman 30-55 wanting younger man 27 for stress relief. Lingerie and large chest bonus. No LTR. Just good clean. Discretion assured. ☎ 6960

SEEKING SUGAR DADDY
Exotic and sultry 18 yo WF, seeks sugar daddy for expenses and shopping trips. Expect something nice in return. ☎ 6962

THREESOME ANYONE?
Fortyish handsome couple looking for BI, for casual dating and play. Our place or yours. Our expense LTR possible. Daytime encounters possible. ☎ 6955

YOUNG 18-25
Life is short, celebrate sexuality. Retired man looking for young Thai, Asian, Caucasian girl, 18-25, for companion and sensual pleasures. Massage, camping, hot springs, dirt bike riding. Only in America is young girl, old man considered taboo. Be proud of your body, let others enjoy it. Write Blind Box: "Sensual Pleasures." ☎ 6938

ORALLY TALENTED
BiM, 41, very into giving oral. Couples, singles, groups. Corvallis, Albany area please. No reciprocation expected. ☎ 6938

SWF SEEKS INTIMACY
Hi guys. I'm 34, grad student, brunette, Rubenesque, soft and giving. Seeking mature SWM 21-30, lean, tall, sensual, well equipped for conversation, foreplay, touch, sweaty long encounters and fun. ☎ 6908



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